AL FAJR

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TO OUR READERS:

In compliance with the Israeli military authorities, and under the guise of Al-Fajr is required to submit all material prepared for publication in this w[illegible] Edition, to the Israeli censorship authorities, who use this blanket authority excessively. The material appearing on pages labeled with letters has all been censored and expunged by the Israeli authorities. We found it necessary and relevant to publish it on these pages in the foreign edition.

At Meeting with Local Businessmen

Elia Soft-Sells 'Civil Administration' to al-Bireh

Head of the 'civil administration' in the West Bank, Shlomo Elia, accompanied by 15 senior military officers and seven civilian figures including the Israeli-appointed mayor for al-Bireh, met 40 local Palestinian merchants, factory owners, and quarry and construction contractors in the municipal park, August 15. According to reports, discussion centred on the situation of the municipalities in the West Bank.

The Israeli-run al-Bireh municipality distributed more than 70 invitations to merchants, lawyers and notables. . . . . .

Shlomo Elia told the guests that the Israeli authorities want to appoint Arabs as mayors to replace the elected municipal heads dismissed by the military authorities. However, he noted, no decision has been taken in this regard. During the one-hour meeting, Shlomo Elia gave opportunity for the attendants to ask questions.

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Elia reportedly told him that no decision to appoint Arab municipal councils had been taken and that there is "no intention at the present time to appoint a new municipal committee."

Elia pointed out that Israeli authorities want either to "contact" residents capable of handling municipal responsibility and ready to run their affairs or "appoint a municipal committee." Elia reportedly admitted that the second option was "less democratic than the first." Elia pointed out that the municipal committee he was talking about will serve "during a transition period before elections." He did not set a date for elections.

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Elia confessed that there have been some violations and transgressions of the law. He asserted twice that the Israeli Minister of Defence, Moshe Arens, is determined to apply the law to all citizens.

Tawil told *Al Fajr* that the head of the 'civil administration' wanted to "examine the political pulse of the Palestinian residents — to learn their attitude towards the appointing of municipal committees." Tawil said that municipalities headed by military mayors are "better than appointing Arab mayors with Zionist hearts."

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The typed invitation card, stamped "Al-Bireh municipality" and signed by the Israeli mayor, read:

"An Invitation for a Meeting with the Head of the 'Civil Administration'

"To Mr . . .

"I cordially invite you to attend a meeting between prominent al-Bireh figures and the head of the 'civil administration'. The meeting will be convened, God willing, at the al-Bireh municipality park at 9:30 am.

"You will agree with me on the importance of these meetings in depending on positive dialogue for revealing the opinions and the desires of the citizens and their needs in regards to the affairs of their town. Your attendence at the meeting is a positive step for improving the present conditions."

Yalouz, Head of the Municipal Council of al-Bireh

Copy to the Military Governor at Ramallah

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Changing horses in mid stream

Al-Shira' Magazine Ordered Closed

Israeli occupation authorities closed down *Al Shira'* magazine, a Jerusalem-based biweekly, August 16.

Two policemen entered the offices of the Palestinian magazine, located on Al-Zahra Street, with the closure order, August 16, signed by the Jerusalem district commissioner, Rafael Levy. Not finding the owner, Walid Assali, they left a summons for him to appear at Moscobiyya detention centre. After a one hour wait at the West Jerusalem compound, Assali received the stop-publication order. The order is based on the British Mandate of Palestine's Defence (Emergency) Regulations of 1945, Article No 92/2, which empowers the district commissioner to revoke the licence of any newspaper or magazine without specifying reasons. This is the first time since occupation that a licence has been withdrawn.

According to the order, described by Israel Radio as a "banning order", Jerusalem District Commissioner Rafael Levy claimed that the decision to revoke the licence of *Al Shira'* was made after a meeting with Assali, June 5. Levy specified that the order must be implemented within seven days of the date on which the owner of the magazine received it.

Owner Assali told *Al Fajr* that Levy notified him at the June 5 meeting that he was seriously considering closing the magazine because of its political line. "These reasons are false and mere fabrications," Assali commented. "They exist only in the minds of Israeli officials. Our magazine is an independent Palestinian Arab magazine."

Assali said that he will do his best to regain the licence of the magazine.

Mohammad Abu Libdeh, editor of *Al Shira'*, defended the magazine: "There has not been any violation of the government's instructions. We submit every article, every news item to the censor. We have never received a warning from the censor and most journalists working at *Al Shira'* magazine also work on other local newspapers." He said the decision was "arbitrary" and protested the accusations that the magazine has a leftist line as false. Abu Libdeh called the measure "an attack against the Palestinian press in the occupied territories."

"We call on all newspapers and magazines in the occupied territories, democratic forces and defenders of press freedom to stand with us in our efforts to regain our licence," the editor stated.

The Arab Journalists Association in the occupied territories immediately denounced the measure against the magazine and called it "a dangerous step threatening the physical existence of the national press in the occupied territories."

Akram Haniyeh, the secretary of the AJA, told *Al Fajr*: "As far as I know, *Al Shira'* submits 100 percent of its articles and news items to the censor. The closure is a preliminary step for intensifying a campaign against the Palestinian national press. This provocation against *Al Shira'* is destructive to the national press and the profession of journalism in the occupied territories and to the very existence of press institutions.

In the last several years, Palestinian publications have suffered from heavy censorship and the banning of distribution in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

*Al Shira'*s distribution licence has been withheld by Israeli authorities for varying

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Separatist Haddad Wounded

One Israeli was killed and six others wounded, two of whom were civilians, in three separate military attacks, between August 14 and 17. Israeli sources, moreover, confirmed earlier reports that the Israeli-backed militia leader, Sa'ad Haddad, was seriously injured in an attack two weeks ago.

The most serious attack this week occurred August 17, in the Marjayoun area. According to Israel Radio, two Katyusha rockets with a range of 8.5 kilometres were fired at an Israeli position in the vicinity of the city. One landed in an Israeli supply depot, killing a soldier and wounding three others. The second fell 50 metres from a Norwegian UNIFIL forces position. No UNIFIL casualties were reported.

In Nabatiyeh, a few kilometres to the north, a guerilla attacked an Israeli intelligence officer who was shopping in the city. Reports said the officer was seriously wounded and was flown by helicopter to Rambam Hospital, Haifa. Searches of the area failed to turn up the attackers.

The military correspondent of the Israeli Army Radio reported, August 17, that the pro-Israel militia leader Sa'ad Haddad was released from an Israeli hospital after recovering from woundsin the neck and stomach. He was hit when his house was attacked Friday, August 5.

According to the Israeli report, three guards were killed and two of his daughters wounded. The attack was hushed up at the time.

The militia leader said on leaving Rambam that Israeli intelligence reports that the attackers were members of his own militia were untrue. He demanded that four of his men, arrested after the attack, be released. News of the attack on Haddad was first published by the Kuwait News Agency, last week.

Two Israeli civilians were wounded, August 14, by a bomb explosion near Nabatiyeh. The bomb was triggered as they drove past it. An Israeli military spokesman announcing the incident declined to say what the two unnamed civilians were doing in Lebanon.

There were two separate explosions in the Sidon area, August 15. A remote-controlled bomb was triggered under an Israeli military vehicle on the coastal highway south of the city. There were no reports of casualties. Occupation troops closed off the road for three hours during a search for the attackers.

The second incident occurred later in the day in Sidon itself. Reports said a bomb was detonated when a military vehicle passed near it. Early reports said there were a number of casualties. Israeli troops prevented journalists from approaching the site.

In announcing the Katyusha death, the military spokesman revised official casualty figures upwards. Israel has now lost 517 dead since the start of the invasion, last June, and 2943 wounded.

Yarka Youth Goes from Lebanon To Prison

An Israeli military court in Haifa remanded a Palestinian Druze from Yarka, in the Galilee, for 45 days, August 14, for joining the resistance forces in Lebanon last year. Radwan Attallah has been held since June 14 on several charges, among them "illegal infiltration into Lebanon."

According to the official charge sheet, Attallah crossed the border several times without permit, carried an unlicensed weapon and stole an army vehicle. Israeli security sources quoted by Hebrew newspapers said that the Yarka youth, who is now being held in Atlit military prison near Haifa, entered Lebanon for the purpose of fighting with the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) against Israel's allies, the Phalangists. The sources further explained that Attallah had traded his Israeli-issued M-16 rifle for an AK-47 with a Sa'ad Haddad militiaman and that he entered Lebanon using a stolen military vehicle.

Jamal Ma'adi, a Yarka resident who heads the progressive Druze Initiative Committee (DIC), expressed suspicion that Attallah was held because of his support for the PSP. He explained that immediately after the invasion of Lebanon, the Israeli authorities issued permits for some Palestinian residents to visit Lebanon. He also suggested that Attallah, who has been making trips to Lebanon for more than one year without being stopped, had been using such permits. "Why didn't they stop him before," he questioned.

According to the DIC, more than 10 Palestinian Druze from Maghar and Beit Jann, many of whom are enlisted or reserve soldiers serving with the Israeli army, have been detained and charged with assisting the Lebanese PSP against the Phalangists. Ma'adi stated that some residents are still in detention.

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DIC head Jamal Ma'adi condemned the "arbitrary arrests" and called for the immediate release of all Druze prisoners in Israeli jails.

continued from page 1

AL SHIRA'

periods during its five-year history.

Walid Assali stressed that *Al Shira'* started as an independent magazine in 1978 and "it is still independent."

"Before issuing the first edition," he said, "my brother, Marwan Assali, the magazine founder, obtained IL70,000 from local merchants in return for local ads. The journalists who now work at the magazine are volunteers or earn menial salaries."

Marwan Assali, the magazine's founder, a professionsal journalist since the 1030s, died on October 12, 1980.

AL FAJR SUPPLEMENT

Al Fajr Jerusalem Palestinian weekly publishes a daily supplement of English translations of selected local news items published in the four Arabic dailies: Al Fajr, Al Shaab, Al Ittihad and Al Quds. The translations, which will be of the same day's newspapers, will also include abridged versions of the editorials appearing in the four dailies. This news service by the Al Fajr English staff will reflect the same high standards of accuracy and quality of English translations as Al Fajr weekly.

The supplement – under the heading "The Jerusalem Dawn" – will be hand delivered daily, by lunch time, except on Sundays, to subscribers at the address they prefer.

A service charge of US $50 per month is requested for the subsription.

Cheques may be sent to Al Fajr newspaper, P.O. Box 19315, Jerusalem. For additional information, please ask at Al Fajr (English) offices, 2 Hatem Ta'ee Street, Jerusalem. Telephone: 281-035.

ARENS MEETS RIGHTISTS IN BEIRUT

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens made a surprise visit to leaders of the right wing Lebanese Front, August 16, in an attempt to rearrange the situation in the Druze-dominated Shouf mountains before pulling back Israeli troops. Pierre Gemayel, head of the Phalangist Party and former Lebanese president Camille Chamoun, head of the Liberal Party, met with the Israeli military head at the same time that an interim agreement was made between the nationalist Progressive Socialist Party and the Lebanese government on the reopening of Beirut Airport.

Aren's trip, a day after chief of staff Moshe Levy announced the troop pullback to the Awali River would occur "within days," was apparently a final coordination of the turnover of the Shouf to the right wing alliance. Arens, who made his way to the Lebanese capital by helicopter, was accorded a full reception by a Phalangist militia honour guard. He held separate meetings at the homes of Chamoun, Gemayel and Lebanese (Phalangist) Forces commander Fadi Freim. Israeli reports quoting Beirut radio said Arens also met former minister of tourism, Marwan Hamadi, a Druze politician.

According to rightist Lebanese news reports, the meetings dealt with the Israel pullback. The Phalangist-run Voice of Lebanon radio station later confirmed that Arens wanted to coordinate the redeployment from the Shouf and the town of Aley.

Before his departure from Beirut's Yarze suburb, Arens held a press conference in which he explained his government's intention to coordinate evacuation of the area with the Lebanese army. "But we cannot make the movement of our troops contingent on arrangements that may or may not be made in the area." Arens repeated this theme in Tel Aviv, August 17, at a dinner for Israel Bonds donors. He accused the Lebanese government of not doing enough to reach a political accord with the Shouf Druze. He said work on such an accord should start immediately, if it is to be concluded "before Israel leaves."

In Beirut, Arens also threatened Syria, describing is as "intent on military confrontation."

Arens' trip to the Lebanese capital, made without officially notifying the Lebanese government, was condemned by a number of Lebanese politicians. In a show of protest, Prime Minister Shafiq Wazzan cancelled all meetings the next day, including the weekly cabinet meeting scheduled to take place at the presidential palace in Ba'abda. Instead, the cabinet moved the meeting to his home in Beirut.

Lebanese Information Minister Roger Shikani discounted reports that Wazzan might resign and said he and Lebanese president Amin Gemayel were "united in rejecting practices which hurt state authority."

Those whom Arens met denied the meetings had been arranged. Muslim leaders were reportedly in a "rage" over the insult to the state authority, particularly the fact that the militia saluted Arens in an army controlled area.

Syrian newspapers dismissed Wazzan's anger, noting that Arens' visit to Beirut, which is under control of the Lebanese army, could not have been carried out without prior coordination with the Lebanese government. *Al Ba'ath*, the organ of the Syrian Ba'ath party, praised the National Salvation Front calls for overthrowing the Gemayel government. It said the regime had "severed all ties with the people."

Before Arens' visit, there were reports of growing rapprochement between PSP Leader Walid Jumblatt and Gemayel. After keeping the Beirut Airport closed for six days by heavy artillery fire, Jumblatt reduced his earlier demands for the resignation of the cabinet to milder conditions: a call for national reconciliation, based on the coordinated pull-out of Lebanese Forces from Beirut, and the mutual disarming of Phalangists and PSP militias. The airport opened for civilian traffic, August 16.

Immediately afterwards, there were unconfirmed reports that Gemayel and Jumblatt would widen their discussions. Gemayel, faced with the the Lebanese army's ineffectiveness against the PSP in the Shouf, was willing to consider any options which would allow the army to move into the Shouf. In the meantime, the Lebanese government has agreed that the airport be used only for civilian purposes.

After Arens' visit and reception in the Lebanese capital, Nasib Khatib, head of the Lebanese Arab Democratic Party, one of the components of the NSF, said the Front would be discussing political and military steps they can take to stop the Lebanese authorities if they continue military operations in the Shouf. The meeting will be in Tripoli, August 17.

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issues 172, August 19, 1983:

Number of original articles submitted to censors	36
Number of articles totally censored out	7
Number of articles lost	4
Number of articles mutilated beyond use	1
Number of articles partially censored	2
Number of articles passed	22

AL FAJR JOURNALIST IMPRISONED 4 MONTHS

LYDDA - Israeli military court sentenced *Al Fajr (Arabic)* Jerusalem correspondent Talal Abu Afifeh, August 16, to four months imprisonment and six months suspended sentence, effective for three years, for printing and distributing leaflets relating to the present crisis in the Fatah movement. Abu Afifeh was also fined IS5000.

The Jerusalem journalist, arrested from his home in Shu'fat on June 27, denied the charges during interrogation and in court. The court convicted him on the basis of confessions by two other people held on similar charges. He is now in Ramle prison. He was held in Moscobiyya detention centre in Jerusalem under interrogation until a few weeks ago.

Hebron U. Takes Safeguard Measures

Hebron University administration has taken steps to safeguard the safety of students on campus in the wake of attacks in which three people died, July 26. The university published ads in local newspapers seeking to employ 10 to 15 guards for the three entrances of the university day and night. The entrances will be supplied with a special room for shift-guarding. Plans have been endorsed by the administration of the university to build a stone wall around the 50-dunum campus.

Sharif Ja'abari, a member of the board of trustees, told *Al Fajr* the work will cost more than JD77,000.

The university started building a wall six months ago. Israeli authorities prevented completion of work on it and the roofing of a fourth storey of the university, last April, when the university was closed for two months. On August 3, one week after the massacre, Israeli authorities issued a permit for the university to complete building the wall.

The police have made no announcements about progess in their investigations into the killings of three students and the wounding of 37 others by masked gunmen.

Hebron University officials called the Hebron military governor, August 14, and asked for a progress report. He reportedly told them "the investigation is still under way." Sharif Ja'abari told *Al Fajr*, "We are concerned to know which group sent the killers to the campus. I know in the end we will be told 'a crazy person' was responsible for the murders."

Child Killed by Land Mine

A six-year-old Palestinian child was killed and his eight-year-old playmate wounded when a land mine exploded in Husan village, Bethlehem district, August 16. Mohammad Abd al-Qader Hamamreh, six, from Husan, and Mohammad Mustafa Abu Amus, eight, his relative, from Khader village were playing in the southern side of the village 40 metres from the main road when they apparently tripped the mine at 5:00 pm. The two children were taken to Hussein Hospital in Bethlehem for emergency treatment. Mohammad Abd al-Qader died the same night. Abu Amus was taken to Hadassah Hospital, suffering from multiple injuries; he is in serious condition.

Seven military vehicles with mine defusal experts came immediately to the village and conducted a search of the area at night. The following morning, residents of Husan learned that Israeli soldiers discovered 17 mines within three metres of the first.

Residents of the village buried the child in the local cemetery August 17. Issa Mohamad Hamamreh, uncle of the dead child, told *Al Fajr* this is not the first incident to occur in the village. Similar explosions have occurred during the last few years wounding several residents. Hamamreh described the latest event as "terrible."

Islamic Bloc Head Stays Expelled

The Bir Zeit University board of trustees rejected attempts by West Bank and Gaza Islamic groups and figures, August 12, to get them to readmit Abdallah Sa'afin, head of the Islamic bloc, who was expelled in June following an attack on the campus by local and outside Islamic groups.

A press statement issued by the university board of trustees insisted on the university's right to take "disciplinary measures against students found guilty of stirring up trouble on campus." The statement was a reply to an earlier statement by the Islamic student bloc, which accused the administration of "siding against the Islamic students."

"All that has been rumoured about the university administration being biased against the Islamic bloc or others is unfounded," the board stated. "The university follows a balanced policy and treats the students as one body and not as blocs or groups," the statement concluded.

The press release also made it clear that BZU has many problems and is not ready to enter confrontations with any party. They also called for greater public support in order to be able to cope with existing problems.

One source in the university said that the statement was released because of some religious leaders' and members of Islamic institutions' attempts to intervene on behalf of the expelled student. The source refused to give any further information, saying that they had dealt with the problem.

Sa'afin was found to have led Muslim fanatics on the old campus of Bir Zeit University, in June. The attack involved nearly 100 followers, many of whom were from the Islamic University in Gaza, and non-students, who tried to force their way into the university, clashed with nationalist students and destroyed much of the furniture in the cafeteria. The attack resulted in the board calling an abrupt end to the semester, apparently because of fears of renewed clashes between nationalist and Islamic students.

JENIN PHYSICIANS BOYCOTT NEW HEALTH DIRECTOR

Jenin pharmacists and physicians disregarded official invitations from the recently-appointed district health department head, Dr Ahmad Staitiyeh, August 7. Medical sources say the *de facto* boycott was because of Staitiyeh's political background and his strong relations with the Israeli-backed Village Leagues.

Sources in the northernmost city in the West Bank said that personal invitations were first extended to the 36 physicians working in the city, August 4. The letters from the newly-appointed health director stated that he wanted to discuss "issues of general concern."

According to one physician, only three doctors attended. Other doctors refused to make comments apparently. One said he did so for "political retribution."

Local pharmacists refused to attend a similar meeting a week later.

Staitiyeh's controversial appointment was made after the Israeli authorities dismissed his predecessor for talking to reporters about the February poisoning incident, which was concentrated in the Jenin district.

The Israeli daily *HaAretz* said at the time that his appointment was on the merits of his relations with the Village Leagues. It reported that Staitiyeh was fired from his job as head of the Jenin Hospital orthopedic department two years ago, after being found guilty of causing the death of a patient, through negligence.

He was appointed by the same Israeli officer who had earlier removed him.

Medical sources noted that since his appointment, the health situation in the district "suffered a set-back because of increases in fees." Certificates of good health, which used to be given free, now cost JD1.5.

A doctor who refused to be identified said that treatment at 20 village clinics in the district operated by the health department costs more than at private clinics in Jenin. He explained that only people with health insurance can now afford to be treated in these clinics.

Prison Hunger Strike

"Prisoners in Ramleh, Beer Sheba, Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Hebron, Gaza, Beit Lid, Nafha and Ashkelon stopped eating to protest the treatment the women are receiving by the prison administration. They are now refused medical treatment. One prisoner, Teresa Halaseh, is said to be in a "very bad" condition.

"Palestinian prisoners in 11 jails went on a one-day hunger strike, August 15, in solidarity with Neve Tertza women prisoners who have been on strike since May.

"*Al Ittihad* newspaper reported that after they went on strike, the quantity and the quality of food in the jail became very bad. Prisoners are locked up for 23 hours a day and newspapers have been banned." (Translation: Al Talia, August 18).

UNION PROBLEMS

NABLUS — Elections to fill the seats of the Executive Committee of the General Federation of West Bank Trade Unions will now be held in Nablus in September. The outgoing committee held a meeting here to review recent developments.

The federation has announced that it is expelling eight member unions, allegedly on grounds of non-payment of their dues, but the decision is being challenged by the unions involved.

The unions are protesting the move which they claim will mean the dissolution of the union movement in the West Bank. They say the federation secretary refused to accept dues paid by the expelled unions.

Settlers Dump Trash

Haj Musa Khales, 80, complained to Israeli police, August 15, that settlers at a synagogue adjoining his home and scores of houses in Jerusalem's Old City have been throwing stones, dirty water and sewage on the roofs and yards, making noise and shouting at Palestinian neighbours at midnight for the last three months. "This is my sixth complaint in the last month," said Khales. "The police did nothing and all the promises of the Jerusalem municipality to evacuate the settlers are in vain."

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VILLAGE LEAGUE TURNS POLITICAL

Chairman of the Village League Federation Mustafa Dudeen circulated a 35-clause political covenant to the six local league heads in a meeting in Ramallah which calls for the recognition of Israel and accepts the Camp David accords.

Called the Palestine National Covenant for Peace, the document promotes, according to an extensive report in the *Jerusalem Post* August 12: direct negotiations with Israel; general elections in the West Bank and Gaza supervised by neutral international observers; close ties with Jordan; a strong police force, independent judiciary and a central bank.

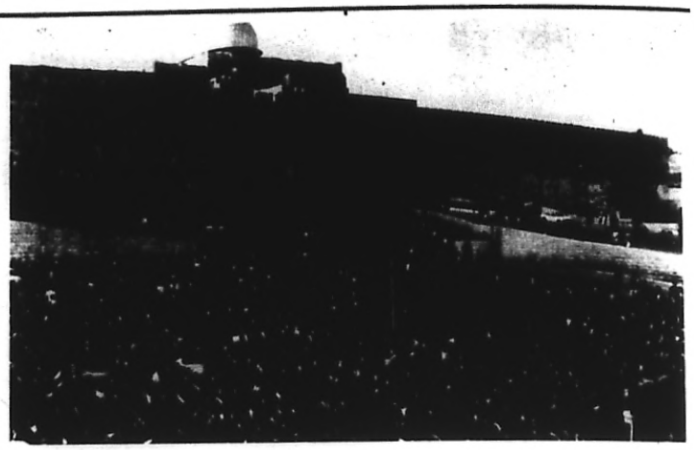
The Dudeen movement makes no mention of the PLO, which it wants to supplant at least on paper, nor does it address the rights of refugees to return, other than to recognise the right to family reunions.

Dudeen is also attempting to set up a political party called the Democratic Movement for Peace, pending approval by Israeli military authorities. Village Leagues had been banned from undertaking political activity. An attempt by former Hebron League head Mohammed Nasr to set up a similar 'peace party' was disapproved by Israeli authorities earlier this year and Nasr replaced by a new appointee, Jamil Amla. Nasr has brought a suit before the High Court questioning the procedure which, his lawyer Ze'ev Weils says, is "retroactive legislation."

The new coordinator of military activities in the West Bank, General Binyamin Ben Eliezer, is "skeptical" of the leagues, reports the *Post*, and is unlikely to approve the political role they have carved out for themselves.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government's Arabic daily, *Al Anba*, reported that 12 village leaguers, including the heads of the Ramallah and Bethlehem leagues, were charged with assault, using force, threatening with weapons and other violations. The Village League was armed by the Israeli military in November 1981.

Israel Radio reported that Dudeen is in the US this week and is scheduled to attend a Jewish war veteran's organisation conference in Georgia. Dudeen also hopes to meet with "US officials" during his visit. A US tour earlier this year on inivitation of a right wing congressman was cancelled by Dudeen at the last minute because of "ill health."



10,000 Neturei Karta Protest Old City Dig

An estimated 10,000 Orthodox Jews, many belonging to the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta movement, rent their clothes, August 17, as part of continuing religious protest against the archaeological dig conducted near the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Experts from the Orthodox community sects have deemed the archaeological site to be the site of an ancient Jewish cemetery.

The demonstration followed continued police harassment in Mea Sharim, the quarter where most Orthodox live. On August 8, the prominent Neturei Karta Rabbi, Simcha Waldenberg, the spiritual leader of the northern region, was taken into custody from his house at 4:00 am and charged with "incitement and unlawful assembly." He was released later on bail.

The Neturei Karta movement's spokesman, Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, received an official invitation to the UN Conference on the Question of Palestine to be held in Geneva, August 29-September 3. The invitation, dated June 27, was received at the movement's Jerusalem office on August 3, via Israeli diplomatic mail. Rabbi Hirsch commented on the method of delivery: "Finally the Zionists have recognised that we are the legitimate representatives of the Jewish residents of Palestine."

Hirsch said that the Neturei Karta delegation which will go to Geneva will attack Zionism and the desecration of Jewish graves.

Peace Now to Ignore UN Geneva Conference

Peace Now movement turned down an invitation by the UN committee organising the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, last week, charging that it is going to be an anti-Israel convention. Several other organisations which were invited to the conference plan to attend.

Peace Now, the largest Israeli peace group, received a cable telegramme and a letter in mid-July inviting them to the conference, due to start on August 29. After consultations and contacts with the Israeli Centre for Peace, which employs some Peace Now members, the movement decided to turn down the invitation.

Amiran Goldblum, one of three spokesmen for the movement, said that he does not think the conference will address the issue of mutual recognition. When asked why they did not go to present their own point of view, he said that the conference is a "mere propaganda show and that it does not have real political weight. We would not want to be exploited for propaganda purposes," he added.

Goldblum sounded angry at the invitation of Neturei Karta, a religious anti-Zionist group, to the conference, describing it as "a joke." He explained that Neturei Karta is a "very insignificant and unimportant group."

Goldblum said that their refusal to take part in such a conference does not indicate a shift in policy. "We are still committed to achieving peace through an agreement based on mutual recognition for each other's right to self-determination," he said.

The conference, which will be devoted entirely to discussions of the Palestinian problem, will be attended by a number of Israeli peace groups, including the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, the Council for Israel-Palestine Peace and Neturei Karta. Uri Avnery, editor of the weekly *HaOlam HaZe* and member of the Council for Israel-Palestine Peace, was quoted as saying that they should take part in any meeting where the problem is discussed.

Among other Israeli groups invited to the conference were the Committee Against the War in Lebanon and the There Is a Limit (*Yesh Gvul*) soldier group which opposed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

"if we find out..."

Israel's Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, told a group of visiting foreign Jews, August 14, that the state would do "all in its power to find those responsible" for the massacre at Hebron University, July 26, in which three people died and 37 were wounded.

Begin told his audience of Israeli Bonds donors that the authorities "not only regret (the attack), but if we find out who did this evil thing...there's no doubt he (sic) will be brought to book. But, of course, there shall be due process of law."

Despite Begin's speech, investigators still have not announced any progress in their investigations.

Kahane Protests Housing For Arabs

NAZARETH -- Meir Kahane, leader of the fascist Kach (Thus) movement, is spearheading a drive to prevent Arab families from moving to Upper Nazareth. Reports said Kahane had intended to hold a demonstration in Arab Nazareth, in protest against the housing of Arab families in Upper Nazareth, but had been prevented from doing so by the police.

So far, Arabs have bought 320 apartments in addition to having rented 280 flats in Upper Nazareth, but the committee is trying to find a legal loophole preventing the Arabs from moving into their new homes.

One of the Jewish residents of Upper Nazareth put a sign outside his house which read: "The sale of apartments to Arabs is a crime and national bankruptcy."

Residents of the building where this house was located have been involved in disputes and recriminations, following the refusal of a Jewish tenant to sign a declaration forbidding the sale of homes to Arabs.

Nazareth Work Camp

Residents and the municipality of Nazareth have finished preparations for the Eighth Annual Voluntary Work Camp in Nazareth, to go on between August 17 and 21.

Hundreds of volunteers from all over the country and foreign delegations from Europe are expected, to help in asphalting roads, constructing new roads and improving services in local institutions.

Ziyad Fahoum, the municipality chairman for public relations, reminded *Al Fajr* that they had initiated the annual community work in 1975 because of the insufficient budgets. Stressing the economic importance of the camp, he said the official government budget given for development last year was only IS8,000,000 while the 1982 work camp did IS20,000,000 worth of work.

Fahoum says the expected 6000 volunteers will asphalt more than 20 roads. Only 2500 persons participated in the first annual camp. As usual, the community work will open at the secondary school with speeches from prominent Nazarenes. It will be followed by a march through the streets of the town.

Israelis Behind Iron Fist

Most of the Israeli public support an "iron fist" policy in the occupied territories, but a small majority opposes giving settlers in the occupied territories greater leeway for self-defence, according to a public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute for the Israeli afternoon paper, *Yediot Aharanot*.

The survey, which was conducted in the second half of the month of July, was based on the responses of 1215 interviewees, all from the Israeli Jewish community.

In answer to the question, "Is the policy of the government in keeping order in the occupied territories lenient, appropriate or hard?" 15 percent called it hard; 35 percent answered it appropriate and 43 percent responded that it was lenient. Seven percent of those questioned had no opinion.

Those interviewed were then asked, "Are you for or against giving weapons to the settlers and giving them powers for self-defence, so that they can use them without recourse to the army? Forty-five percent answered 'for'; 50 percent 'against' and five said they had no opinion on the subject.

(Translation: Yediot Aharanot, August 5,1983)

The Dawn

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From Failure to Failure

Israeli 'civil administration' head Shlomo Elia, met, August 15, with al-Bireh "notables" upon the invitation of the appointed Israeli mayor of the city, Yalouz. The invitation and the meeting in al-Bireh was one in a series of meetings being conducted recently between the civilian branch of the Israeli military occupation and Palestinian pro-Jordanian elements in the occupied territories.

For the last five years, specifically since the signing of the Camp David accords on September 28, 1978 and the creation of the new American-Israeli-Egyptian pact in the Middle East, Israel, the executive instrument of the agreement, has not stopped for a single day its attempts in dealing with the core of these accords: finishing, once and for all, the implementation of a solution to the Palestinian question on the land of Palestine.

Since late-1978 through the end of 1982, the Village Leagues had priority in Israeli local schemes. Their presence was inflated: Village Leagues were given offices, 'powers', arms and publicity, but, to the Israelis' misfortune, they failed in all aspects. Even to the US, Israel couldn't present the Leagues as representative of anything other than Israeli interests.

With the appointment of Binyamin Ben Eliezer as coordinator of activities in July 1983, the cards shifted to the Jordanian elements. The Israeli media is pushing forward the new policy. More than one preparatory meeting has been held between the two sides in the last few weeks; the cities involved so far include Hebron, Bethlehem, and al-Bireh. More local 'organising' to the same end is going on in Ramallah, Nablus and other major towns.

It might take several more months until Israel decides to look at another alternative. But who or what the newest alternative will center on can only be known from the next round of astronomers' visits to the Middle East.

THE PRESS AND THE OCCUPATION

The press, in any civilised society, is entrusted with the task of guiding and leading public opinion towards the realisation of that society's regional and national aims, by publishing facts and information, outlining the gainns achieved by the masses, and raising the society's educational and cultural levels.

But the power of the "Fourth Estate" soon dwindles into nothing when oppressed under the yoke of censorship, and loses its freedom of expression, becoming a slave to the whims of the censor and his sharp scissors.

In addition to the heinous censorship imposed upon our press, there are the more serious threats of closures and withdrawals of licences to publish.

The latest such incident was the decision by Jerusalem's District Commissioner to withdraw 'Al Shira's' licence, a drastic measure that contradicts every democratic principle upheld by the Israeli government which purports to be over-zealous in protecting the freedom of thought and expression.

No matter how much Israel may try to sugar its bitter pill of occupation, the fact remains that it is an occupying power with all the negative connotations that term implies.

AL FAJR ARABIC
August 16

Arab government stars no longer twinkle

by Ghassan Bishara

"It really doesn't make any sense," an American educator recently said, describing Arab-American ties. While Arab governments have every reason to protest the US government's treatment of issues thought very important to Arabs in general, they surprisingly not only don't protest but open their countries to more American influence. The American government now is known to be conducting military exercises in three Arab countries, and a fourth, in Oman, is as yet unannounced.

What really doesn't make sense to many who follow the Arab countries' foreign policy is their schizophrenic behavior when it comes to dealing with the US government. While allowing their state-controlled press to criticise US policy, so one-sided in favour of Israel, they on the other hand promote Arab-American ties, of course as defined by the US government. These governments' genuine reading of their people's anger with US policy is the reason behind permitting some criticism of US policy in the region. Where it really makes a difference, however, the Arab governments' second personality takes over and US interests not only are not negatively being affected, but on the contrary, are being promoted and advanced. It is very sad, the American educator said, when governments are incapable of even differentiating their friends from their adversaries: Arab governments would tap these kinds of political entities

American troops leaving for Egypt.

In three different Arab countries — Egypt, Sudan and Somalia, American troops are now conducting military exercises, and Oman, the fourth, is so sensitive about American troops' presence on its territory that neither the US nor the government of Oman is willing to confirm the exercise is taking place. All of this is coming one year after the American-approved (or at least uncondemned) Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Because American weapons were used, it makes questions such as the one asked by the unnamed American educator very relevant.

The exercises, Major Shields told us in a phone conversation with his office of public affairs at the Pentagon, "are not linked together. Each is a bilateral exercise... and there is no common scenario between or among the exercises." 'Bright Star Three', the Egyptian exercise, is the third such exercise to take place and is the biggest of the three confirmed games. It includes 5500 American troops from the Air Force, Army and Navy units and will include fighter aircraft, bomber aircraft and early warning systems, or AWACS, Major Shields said. He also said that approximately the same number of Egyptian troops will take part. 'Bright Star Three', as the number indicates, was preceded by two exercises of the 'Bright Star' series.

Egypt, which lead the front against foreign troops' presence on Middle Eastern soil in the '50s and '60s — from the nationalisation of the Suez Canal to the break up of the Baghdad Pact — is now spearheading their return to the region. This is not to say that the Egyptian government is ignorant of the Egyptian people's feelings about such American manoeuvres. Reports from Cairo reveal that "a virtual news blackout" has been imposed on the exercises. 'Bright Star III', the largest exercise ever held by US troops in the Middle East, is said to have brought such embarrassment to the Mubarak government that it has requested the US government not to publicise the manoeuvres. An official was quoted by the *New York Times* August 7 as saying unhappily, "We're so low profile we're practically nonexistent." Egyptian sensitivity to American troops' manoeuvres on its soil, and American officials' efforts to assauge these sensitivities, were confirmed indirectly by Kamal Hassan Ali. In an interview with *Akhbar al-Yawm*, the Egyptian daily. Ali, the foreign minister of Egypt, said, "I wish to assert that in any given situation... the Egyptian political leadership is motivated only by what it sees as Arab and Egyptian interests." Mr. Ali didn't explain how Arab and Egyptian interests are or will be served by these manoeuvres.

The American manoeuvres in Sudan, 'Natural Bond', and in Somali, 'Eastern Wind', are on a smaller scale than 'Bright Star III'. 'Natural Bond' is "primarily an airborne" exercise, and 'Eastern Wind' is an "amphibious landing, using the Marines," Major Shields said. He also said that there have been previous exercises both in Sudan and Somalia, but this year's are "bigger and have more operational aspects." 'Eastern Wind' will have 2800 American military personnel and a similar number of Somalis. About the time period involved, Major Shields said that 'Bright Star III' will last approximately from August 10 to September 10, 'Natural Bond', the Sudanese manoeuvre, and 'Eastern Wind', the Somali, from mid-August to September 1.

As for the purpose of these manoeuvres, Major Shields of the Pentagon said that each has a separate purpose. "In general," he then said, "we can say the purpose is to exercise the joint capabilities of the forces participating in each of the exercises. The manoeuvres have been planned for a long time," — and thus have nothing to do with the situation in Chad. Egyptian sensitivities, however, are arising from a common perception that Egypt is allowing its territory to be used by American forces against Libya, another Arab country. No such sensitivity exists within the government of Sudan. State Department and Pentagon officials have confirmed that two American AWACs and eight F-5 fighters are now stationed in Khartoum for the purpose of monitoring the situation in Chad, where Libyan forces are aiding rebel forces to overthrow the goverment of Hessene Habre.

About the fourth manoeuvre taking place in Oman, Major Shields refused to answer any questions. "I can't give you any information on the Oman exercise," he said, adding, "I just don't have anything I can discuss (about the Oman manoeuvre)."

With Israel's arm still occupying parts of Lebanon, and the Israeli government expanding settlements in the occupied territories, while already having annexed Jerusalem and the Golan Heights — to mention only a few of Israel's acts, and all with American compliance — such American manoeuvres on Arab lands are truly a puzzle. To use the American educator's words, such Arab governmental behaviour is not only a puzzle, it also "does not make any sense."

OPINION

AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles, and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

EXPLOITING THE BEQA'A CRISIS

by Hani Yabrud

The most immediate political fallout of the crisis in the Beqa'a valley has been the return of pro-Jordanian elements and other opportunists to the fold of the nationalist bloc in the occupied territories. These Jordanian-backed figures have made moves in the last several weeks to advance themselves during the confusion and the preoccupation of local nationalists with the crisis abroad.

Islamic Supreme council representatives, as well as traditionalist mayors, moved on two fronts internally by deliberately involving themselves in the crisis within Fatah and at the same time reestablishing public contacts with the Israeli 'civil administration', which the nationalist bloc has boycotted since its inception.

The sudden *de facto* return of this marginal segment to the ranks of the national movement was attempted without any compromise in the strong stand of collaboration with Jordan. On the contrary, they are trying to penetrate the national consensus, carrying the banner of the Reagan plan and pushing for a joint (non-PLO) Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in US-sponsored talks with Israel.

Pro-Jordanian figures had two strategies; first, to exploit the conflict with Syria and escalate it to a point of no reconciliation, and, second, to erase any suspicions by appearing as the most stalwart supporters of the PLO leadership. On the first point, the West Bank oligarchy understood well that the PLO would have to break relations eventually with Syria before it could participate in a Jordanian-negotiated settlement. With all 'confrontation state' front lines closed to them, the military strength of the PLO would become useless and diplomacy would be its only weapon. Meanwhile, those figures made sure that their names topped the front pages of local newspapers and magazines, voicing support to the PLO leadership. A group even planned to travel to Tunis to 'express support' to PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat and urge him to reactivate his dialogue with the Jordanian regime.

On the local level, these same personalities began paving the way to launch a formal coup in the leadership of the occupied territories, replacing the elected -- and dismissed -- mayors and using the crisis within the PLO to push their demands through. Mayors in the south of the West Bank contradicted the Palestinian national consensus and met the Israeli 'civil administration'. The mayors even blatantly falsified the unanimous Palestinian nationalist stand and claimed they had the PLO's blessing for their moves.

Moreover, and most alarmingly, they began presenting suggestions for future political moves without consulting the national bloc.

By their discussions with Israeli 'civil administration' figures, Jordanian puppets try to hit both birds with one stone: rapprochement with the Israeli authorities and cornering the nationalist bloc into limited alternatives. These alternatives, as traditional figures envisage them, are either to step in and deal with the 'civil administration' or withdraw from the public institutions and everyday life in the occupied territories.

The Israeli authorities for their part understood the hints of the parochial interests and began to extend bridges to them. For this purpose, Colonel Ben Eliezer, former military governor of the West Bank noted for his good relations with pro-Jordanian elements, was called back to service. Ben Eliezer, said to be a close friend of Elias Freij, mayor of Bethlehem, and other Jordanian followers, spelled out his main policy towards them to the *Jerusalem Post* stating that (they) must encompass dialogue with both mayors still in office and including recently fired acting-mayor of Hebron Mustafa Natshe.

Pro-Jordanian figures who initiate arm-stretching to the Israelis will eventually find themselves in the same trunk with the defunct Village Leagues. The Israelis are interested in serving their own ends and will get rid of their clients once they are no longer useful.

Meanwhile, it is the task of the nationalist forces to reapply the principle of clear distinction between the enemy and the nationalist camps.

Not only a smile...

More Productive, less Reproductive

by Thoma Shick

When Stalin was still alive, he had a favorite botanist named Mitshurin who was successful with various wonderous experiments in grafting together hardy species with fruit-bearing ones and, consequently, his fame grew very fast. Sceptics used to mock him with jokes like: "Mitshurin grafted the watermelon with the bedbug. What was the result? When the watermelon was cut in half, all the seeds jumped out quickly..."

The world over, people have trouble with the beautiful, sweet, easy to swallow and easy to digest summer fruit -- the watermelon. "What is green when thrown into the air and red when it falls to earth?" -- is a familiar riddle for children in many countries. However, the puzzle is not the trouble, but the seeds -- those little black figures in the red field, fed by the surrounding white strip and then the green cover for protection. The seeds are the problem. One would like to eat the watermelon at once with swift bites and not bother either with a knife or with tonguing aside those little black pieces. And who wants a field of watermelons being sown in his own stomach?...

In Palestine, watermelon is grown in every village. "What is green and white and red and black?" is not a puzzle at all for any Palestinian child. All of them know; it is...a Palestinian flag!...Sorry!...It is a watermelon!...You see? Even myself, who thinks that any and all flags are pieces of rag or cloth, or at best symbols, even I have fallen into trouble with the watermelon. Certainly I would raise neither a watermelon nor a flag, but there are people who feel like doing that. And others who would punish such an act.

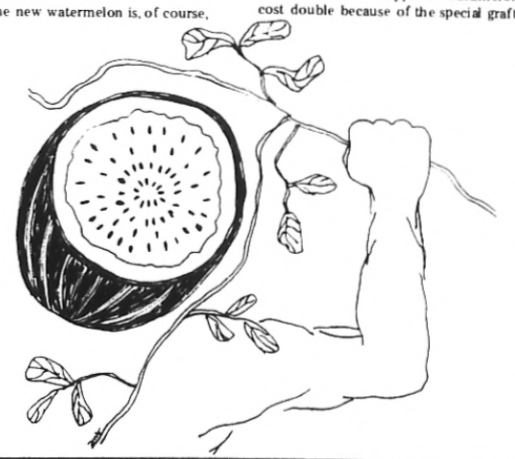
But the wonderful, ultra-modern American-Israeli scientific cooperation has recently come up with a solution for all of us relating to the watermelon: the watermelon has been de-Palestinised! Sorry! De-seeded!

Tel-Aviv-Jaffa's local *(gratis)* weekly *Ha'Ir* reported July 22 that Dr Zvi Qarhi created it! Reporter Esther Sanberg writes: "The watermelon is a member of the pumpkin botanic family. It is a 3000-year-old citizen of the Eastern Mediterranean, in spite of the fact that its origin is in Africa and it is now spread worldwide." She quotes an Israeli saying -- "What is green outside and red inside and has the seeds of a watermelon?" -- and wonders whether the saying would be changed?

The new watermelon is, of course, from America! It is called watermelon 313 (don't get confused...not 242 or 338; neither anything to do with any accord, nor with anything else with numbers in its name!...) It has been grafted a special way from a 'mother' and a 'father' that have a different number of chromosomes and the result is: a fruit with the double number of chromosomes, a deeper red colour, much higher sugar content and sterility! That is -- more productive but less reproductive...Strange, but a fact.

Dr Zvi Qarhi also has an answer to the question of why watermelons don't have the same good taste their ancestors had some 30-40 years ago. He says they are over-watered! He says the traditional way of growing watermelons in Palestine was much more fitting for this creature....

Anyway, what I wanted to say about this watermelon business was that flags are symbols. They may be raised or banned, it doesn't matter. But the watermelon family can never depend on a scientist for its reproduction. The seeds for the new type of watermelon cost double because of the special grafting that's needed for each reproduction, while the consumer will be provided the new, costly product for the same price as ordinary watermelons.



No, my dear, all watermelons deserve the same conditions for reproduction -- the conditions for life, according to the local and genuine taste of watermelons: red, but not deep-blood-red, sweet, but not sick-sweet, and necessarily fertile (there are better ways for family-planning).

Relating to the over-watering of watermelons, it's not the problem of those who in any event don't have equal water rights for agriculture...Believe me I do ignore any flag as a rag, but I am prepared to bother myself with the seeds, for the sake of natural life...We have done so for 3000 years, we can do it for another eternity!

...with a smile
—Thoma

SOLIDARITY FROM SWITZERLAND

To the Editor:

Please forward this letter to Hassan Wahaidi, Gaza.

From *Al Fajr* newspaper I have learned that you were arrested, sentenced and fined for the exercise of your journalistic tasks. As an old friend from Gaza and as a colleague in journalism, I should like to assure you of my partaking and solidarity. Very soon, I hope we will again read your correspondent's reports about Gaza and the life in the camps.

V. Kocker
Zurich, Switzerland

Editor's note: Hassan is still imprisoned on charges of possession of 'banned publications' which included copies of magazines allowed in Jerusalem. He is expected to be released from jail July 13, after serving a two-month sentence and paying a IS10,000 fine.

"RESISTANCE IS YOUR RIGHT"

by Nadia Mansour

In August 1974, the Syrian-born Greek Catholic Archbishop of Jerusalem was arrested and imprisoned for nearly four years. Archbishop Capucci was charged with the alleged transport of weapons through Ras al-Naqura checkpoint for Palestinian commandos active on the West Bank. He denied the charge, claiming that he was framed, and his arrest was comdemned by both the Melkite episcopal synod in Beirut and the Vatican, which does not recognise Israel. The Pope appealed for clemency, but none was forthcoming. In 1975, he sent the Archbishop a letter conferring "a very special apostolic benediction." Later, the Pope openly appealed to Israel for recognition of the rights and legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians.

After his release, Archbishop Capucci went to Rome and was later sent to Latin America. Now residing in Rome, his conditional release does not allow him to travel to any Arab countries, a situation which confines him to "another form of imprisonment." During the course of this interview, he expressed great love and support for the Palestinians and a desire to see the "Arab family" united.

The following interview with Capucci took place in Rome in June 1983.

Q: How did the church respond to your arrest and imprisonment?

A: I did my job as Bishop. The Bishop is not the overlord, but the servant like Christ. And he is the Father of anyone who believes in Jesus. The day we are consecrated as Bishop, we put on this ring. This means I am married to the Church, to Jesus. Anyone in the Church becomes my brother. So, I did my job as Bishop and everyone thought I did what I had to do as Bishop. Now, we are still and always in relationship.

Q: Do you think the Church as an institution addresses the problems of the Palestinians or does it just defend the status quo?

A: They are trying to do their best to help people. But from the other side, they have to try to avoid problems with the authorities. So they have to choose. If they have problems with the authorities, this means that the people may have to pay. So, there is a balance. They try to help the people without crossing the authorities.

It is a little difficult. But sometimes, when the glass becomes full, you have to react. For me, when I find that everything is going from bad to worse and my people are leaving because they can't continue living in this bad situation, I have to do something. But maybe everyone doesn't have the same mentality. So, they are trying to help the people, but carefully.

Q: Should the Church start to develop leadership in the issue of justice? Should it be the conscience of the people?

A: If I were to tell you what the Church is I would say Charity. Charity is not a word. Charity is actions. To me, in the final judgement, God will forget everything except Charity. I was thirsty and you gave to me. I was without clothes and you gave to me. I was imprisoned, sick and you came to visit me, and so on. Nothing else. So, the Church should show this reality through its behaviour. Not everyday, not every hour, but every minute. Otherwise, it is not a Church.

So, when the people are suffering, the Church must intervene. When people are living in bad conditions, without dignity and without justice, the Church must intervene. Otherwise it is not a Church. Now, you must draw the conclusions yourself. Sometimes there is too much diplomacy. Sometimes you have to say, "This is white and this is black." Even if they put you in prison. Otherwise, you aren't true leadership. You don't belong to the Church.

Q: If the Christian community were to address the issues of injustice more actively, would their leadership be able to unify both Christians and Muslims in Palestine?

A: For me, there is no problem at all between Christian and Muslim in Palestine. The Muslims have always treated the Christians respectfully. The problem is between us Christians. There is no unity. Each person is working for himself. If we were working together we would be stronger and could realise something, but the weakness is coming from our divisions. So, the problem is not between Christians and Muslims.

Q: Within the Church, there seems to be no real grassroots movement for the Palestinians. Could the church provide local leadership?

A: Right now the people are ready, because it is the people who are really suffering. They are paying. So, when there is unity first between Christians and then between all Christians and Muslims — I mean between the leadership — they can do everything, because the people are ready.

Q: How would you define your activities as Bishop in the light of Christian theology and secular politics?

A: First, I am a Christian. Charity is not words. It is actions. Christians must do. For me, the Arab nation is a big family. I belong to this family. When any Arab in any country is suffering, I am suffering with him. We are one body, and we are the members of the same body. So, when I defended my people, I have done what my job is as Bishop. I have never seen this as political. It is humanitarian. It is a question of justice. The people are suffering everyday. There is no longer the wandering Jew. There is the wandering Palestinian. And now in Lebanon, they may decide to put out 200,000 Palestinians. It is a humanitarian problem. That's why I've done my best to help the Palestinians.

I hate violence. But there is a very big difference between violence and resistance. Resistance is your right, your duty. When your country is occupied, it is your duty to resist. Of course, if there are ways to do something without harm, like Gandhi, it would be best. But when your adversary — I never use the word enemy — doesn't want to understand you, to understand your legal or just point of view, what will you do? When someone wants to kill you, you have to defend yourself. So, there is something dearer than life — dignity. Life without dignity is death.

BOOK REVIEW / BURNING THE BRIDGES WITH THE ANTI-RACIST CAMPS

by Hanna Assadi

Zionism in the Age of the Dictators: A Reappraisal
by Lenni Brenner
London; Croom Helm Ltd., $9.95

Support for the state of Israel and Zionism in western countries has been based, perhaps more than any other thing, on guilt over the holocaust in Nazi Germany during the second world war. It has always been a bitter irony that Palestinian Arabs should pay with their land for a European crime, committed in Europe against Europeans. In a new book, Lenni Brenner presents telling evidence of another irony — that Zionists should pick up the profits of guilt, given their record of relations with fascists and Nazis in Europe in the period leading up to the Holocaust.

The book is a bombshell — one needn't speculate too long about what would happen to it if it were translated into Arabic for distribution here — succinctly drawing out, mainly from biographies and articles of the leading Zionist figures, the symbiotic relationship between European racism and the Zionist movement. The accusation inherent in the work is damning.

The book starts with an appraisal of pre-Holocaust relations between Zionism and anti-semites. Indeed this section is perhaps not new. Herzl's relations with Russian and East European pogromists is well known. Chaim Weitzmann, later the first president of the state of Israel, is also studied, as are other early leaders. The author surmises that given their refusal to fight anti-semitism - Zionists have always seen it as a natural phenomenon - relations with anti-semites were a natural development.

Brenner says that Zionism burned its bridges with the anti-racist camp with the development of the 'blood and land' ideology which paralleled that of the early German fascists. But the relationship developed always with an eye to pragmatism. Seeking allies among the imperialist powers — to fight down Palestinian resistance or to pressure the British authorities to be more forthcoming — pushed the Zionist movement into collaboration. Brenner outlines how it was the World Zionist Organisation which undermined attempts to organise an anti-Nazi boycott -- one which was perceived in Germany as a very real threat to the economy — by Jewish communities around the world. In return, the Nazis allowed them to export capital circuitously to Palestine. This at a time when the Zionist *yishuv* were virtually bankrupt and their movement was in disarray.

Relations between Revisionist Zionism and Italian fascists are also revealed. At the same time as being the leading light in the fight against Zionist collaboration with Germany, Zev Jabotinsky was enamoured of the Italian version of totalitarianism. A section of his movement modelled themselves on the Italians and made Jabotinsky into a quasi *il Duce*.

Throughout the period (the book deals mainly with the '30s) Zionists were always happy to give a clean bill of health to anyone willing to aid them. Thus even those dissidents within the movement who tried to put on the pressure and mobilise Jewish popular sentiment against Nazism and fascism were bureaucratically shunted into the sidelines by movement leaders with eyes on a larger goal. The book outlines contacts between prominent Zionists and Mussolini, the SS, Eichmann, Franco, etc., in the search for allies to get them Eretz Israel.

Through such manipulations and ideological exactitude, the stage was set for the Zionists to undercut Jewish attempts to organise a mass rescue of Jews in the course of the Holocaust. The 'logic' of the time now reads like chilling collaboration with mass murder.

In fact, much of the information Brenner uses has been available before. At one time, when the Revisionists were in opposition, they revelled in exposing links of their Labour enemies with the Nazis. Neturei Karta, the anti-Zionist Orthodox religious group, has also documented the war time activities of the Zionist leadership. Both have been dismissed in the past as "extremists." Now Brenner has set down and expanded the tale once more. The book is replete with footnotes for those who 'do not believe it,' and conclusions, though clear, are left for the reader to draw.

The book should be read by anyone interested in the history of the establishment of the state of Israel.

The 'Blood and Land' ideology of Zionism led naturally to links with anti-semites and European fascist leaders.

Herzl — Jabotinsky — Weitzmann

an economical survey of the 'civil administration'

The Arab stomach is smaller than the Israeli's

by Zvi Barel

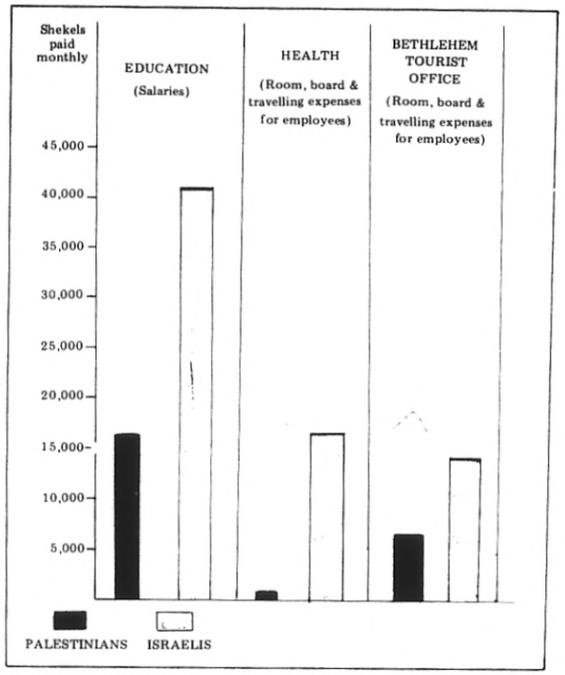
I have always known there's something wrong with Arabs. Maybe it's not something exactly wrong, but different. No, I don't mean political things, national aspirations, different language, culture, habits, etc., but something basic which we can touch and say: "Here lies the difference between Israeli and Arab."

Although I have not been working in this sphere for a long time, it was difficult for me to say in an unequivocal and clear way where the difference lies, until a few days ago. Lately, I got hold of data on the wages of employees, Arabs and Jews, in the 'civil administration' and when I first saw them I almost screamed like Archimedes, "Eureka, Eureka!" Finally, I discovered this well-kept secret. It came out that there is a considerable gap — I mean a physical difference between the Arab and Israeli stomach. So, by examining the data, we can reach a horrible clinical difference — the stomach of the Israeli who works in the 'civil administration' is two and a half times the size of the stomach of the Arab who works in the same system.

Let us examine this data: In the educational system in the West Bank, there are 8621 employees, 12 of whom are Israelis. This is the largest system in terms of manpower and government budget. When we examine the wages of these employees, it comes out that the Israeli employee enjoys a yearly income of IS499,000, or IS41,500 per month, while the Arab employee receives an income of IS200,000 per year, or IS16,500 monthly. In this basic salary the secret is discovered. The Arab can be satisfied with two-fifths of the salary of the Israeli, or, in other words, for every kilogramme of meat in the Israeli kitchen, the Arab is satisfied with 400 grammes.

This example is correct for other departments of the 'civil administration' as well. They show me that the difference between the salary of the Israeli worker and that of the Arab lies in the fact that the wages for Arab labour are based on the scale adopted during the Jordanian regime in the West Bank, while the Israeli wage scale is determined according to Israeli scales. But in the meantime, the economic reality has changed absolutely, and what was suitable for the Jordanian period became unrealistic after 1967. Prices have sky-rocketed, and inflation is of enormous proportion. But the scale is still the same. And nobody pays attention to the fact that the price of bread in the West Bank is similar to its price in Israel, and the price of meat is not any less, because most of the goods which are sold in the West Bank come from inside Israel and during the trip to the West Bank the price only increases.

The difference does not end here. Regarding the health system, for example, IS2.8 million per annum are allocated for board and lodging expenses and travelling allowances to 13 Israeli employees, while IS1.5 million are allocated to the 1527 Arab workers for the same purpose. So according to this information, the Israeli employee receives IS17,000 per month for room, board, and transportation, while the Arab employee receives only IS821. But in order "to be good", let us say that not every service personnel and every nurse has the right to room and board and travelling allowance increases. Let us say that only doctors have a right to these increases. Within the health system there are 208 doctors who work in different units. If we distribute the room and board expenses and the travelling expenses according to the number of doctors only, each doctor would have IS6000 just in this category. This sum is one-third of the sum which the Israeli employee receives, whether a doctor or not.



But in order to avoid getting into complex bureaucracy, in which it is difficult to know exactly which section they mean when they distribute these increments, let us take an example like the tourism office in Bethlehem where there are five employees: a staff officer and four Arab workers, two of whom are receptionists for tourists and two are supervisors. Supposedly, the two receptionists do not receive room and board expenses and they are distributed only to the supervisors. According to the data at hand, the Israeli staff officer receives IS14,500 for room and board and travelling expenses, while the Arab control workers receive IS6900 per month. The difference is almost 200 percent.

Perhaps you would say instead of the room and board expenses and the travelling allowances, the Arab employees are compensated in additional hours. Also in this area there is no surprise: To the 32 Israeli employees a sum of IS26.5 million is allocated while the 11,600 Arab employees get IS23.9 million as payment for overtime. (Out of this, IS22.6 million is in the medical field.) Also, in this field there is no escaping the conclusion that there is a clear physiological difference between the Arab and Israeli stomach.

Why am I raising this subject now? Because from many sources, among them the Defence Ministry, whines have been heard lately, calling for the reinforcement of Israeli law on the West Bank. The reason given is that "it is not possible to leave the Arabs hanging in the air, and attention must be paid to their rights." But before talking about citizens' rights and the right to elect and to be elected, the major difference between Arab and Israeli employment emerges before the eyes, a difference which by reasonable estimates is IS 5 billion per year in direct payments to state employees. This is without looking at areas of development, comparing services, aid to the municipal institutions, and the many other institutions of which it is difficult to make exact estimations. This does not mean that it is permitted for whoever is in charge of the occupied areas to shrug it off and say, "As long as the areas are not annexed to Israel, I am not ready to grant the population, and particularly government employees, appropriate living conditions, or at least a reason to think that the 'civil administration' system is a respectable place to work."

Let us make a small mathematical exercise. Suppose that we annex the West Bank population to the state of Israel and it becomes one population of 5,000,000 people: take the state budget and divide it into this number of people. According to the data in my hands, the budget amounts to IS427 billion (after we subtract the defence budget). In order to be fair, we add the budget of the 'civil administration' — a sum of IS5.8 billion — and then after a simple division we will have for every resident, original and annexed, a budget of IS87,000. I don't mean that this is a lot, but it is reasonable.

Let us show the Arabs further data: If we divide the West Bank budget of IS5.8 billion into the 800,000 population, each individual will have IS7250 per year. But as a result of the annexation, this sum, which includes the West Bank budget, would become IS70 billion per year — 12 times the sum which the state is ready to give to them today.

Is this not also persuasive? So let us show them what they receive today. If this does not convince them to agree to the Israeli annexation, then it is evident that we have a problem with the Arabs.

Where does the West Bank budget really go today?

Out of IS5.8 billion, about IS1 billion are allocated to the development budget. IS4.2 billion is left. Out of this, IS250 million are paid to Israeli employees in salaries and extras. IS113 million are channelled for current expenses of the Village Leagues and the rest is allocated for current expenses and maintaining existing projects. And what exists, to tell the truth, does not give any reason for national pride.

They tell me that maybe during the Jordanian period, the situation was worse; fewer sevices, fewer schools, less water and electricity. This is correct, but it should be remembered that if Jordan controlled the West Bank for 18 years until we 'liberated' it from this burden, so we have been controlling it for 16 years. In two years we will not be able to use this famous slogan: "What Jordan damaged in 18 years, we cannot repair in one day." Because 16 years of our control certainly is not "one day."

Others present an additional claim: "There is also a special budget for development, a budget which was destined to improve and raise the level of services which the resident receives. Why not examine it?" I looked at it. The development budget of the West Bank for the year 1983 was IS1 billion. With this sum, it would be possible to open and pave 70 kilometres of roads, or set up ten settlements, or pay double salaries to West Bank teachers. In fact, the development budget is used for other purposes altogether. And if the mathematical exercise for the annexation of the West Bank is not seen by you as irrelevant, then a look at the development budget will show us that the direction of our thinking is not wrong.

In the field of water, for example, the budget talks of connecting Arab villages to the water grid that connects the settlement of Tapoah with Elon Moreh. Another item indicates the extension of water pipes in the Ras Karkar area, where a settlement is planned. The item regarding the budget for electricity is even clearer: it shows that Jenin, Nablus and many villages are scheduled to be connected with the regional electricity network. It discusses the problems of the municipalities in Hebron and Tulkarm. With regards to telephones, one item talks about the removal of the switchboard in Tulkarm and connecting its subscribers to the Israeli settlement of Kfar Yona and/or the removal of Qalqiliya's switchboard and connecting subscribers there to the telephone centre in Menashe A. Article B determines the removal of regional telephone centres and the connection of their subscribers to municipalities or Israeli centres.

In the area of road construction, the development budget indicates that at least four out of six planned roads are scheduled to connect settlements and actually they will be opened and broadened for the sake of these settlements. It is true that Arabs will also benefit from them.

The value of the above-mentioned items is over IS285 million; namely, more than a quarter of the development budget is intended to strengthen the political links between the West Bank and Israel and to create the "long-awaited subordination" of the residents of the West Bank to Israeli economy.

Now the turn of the Village League comes. This creation of Israeli politics also costs a lot of money. Besides the ordinary budget of IS113 million, they get grants of IS148 million from the development budget. This sum is designated to projects which the Village Leagues initiated and of which they were to be in charge. Only for comparison, it is worth indicating that the same sum is three times that designated for schools and also more than twice the budget for developing the health system.

It is shameful to grant to the 800,000 West Bank residents a development budget barely sufficient to buy a transistor radio for each individual.

In the framework of the development budget, all kinds of branches are found, such as the development of nature reserves, national parks and a synagogue — subjects which do not serve the local population — and on the other hand, they do not cost much money. There is a large sum of IS6-7 million intended for the development of industry and agriculture and which could even cover the cost of setting up one medium-sized factory.

So what is left? A sum which amounts to about one-quarter of the development budget and is designated for building new classrooms, for upgrading equipment and buildings in the health system, for renewing buses in the West Bank and for aiding 25 municipalities and the local councils.

These are the calculations and these show, in reality, that anyone who talks about equal rights and equal services for Arabs, if there will be an annexation, does not take into account these destructive calculations. Or perhaps we are wrong in our thinking — that in fact nobody intended to give equal services to all the residents of the complete Eretz Yisrael? But without annexation, it seems to me quite shameful to grant to the 800,000 residents of the West Bank a development budget barely sufficient to buy a transistor radio for each individual. (Translation HaAretz, August 9, 1983).

The Judicial/Business System

An often-heard claim is "Look how much money the state of Israel allocates to the West Bank"; or "Look how much we contributed to the development of the Arabs, compared to the period when the Jordanian regime ruled." These claims are intended to show the West Bank as a heavy burden which makes for huge difficulties for the state of Israel. But whoever examines the budget of the 'civil administration' will discover that these claims might have been true in the first years of the occupation, but they are no longer so today.

An example is local courts. In this area there has been a shocking development which speaks for itself. This does not mean that the services these institutions give have become more beneficial, quicker, or more just — we are not dealing with this — but the courts have developed into one of the most booming economic branches of the 'civil administration'.

For example, the anticipated income for the current year in this field is similar to that anticipated from the customs branch — about IS160 million, not taking into account IS10 million which is anticipated from the payment of fines. One could get the impression that the residents of the West Bank are busier inside the walls of the courts than in their businesses. The expenses of the 'civil administration' in this area are four times the income.

Actually, services have not improved nor have the number of petitioners grown, but tariffs have gone up, inflated and turned the judicial system into a business.

The Bethlehem Tourism Office: *"The difference in direct payment to state employees is IS5 billion a year."*/JN

Characteristic of the prevailing anomaly is the comparison between the amount gathered from income taxes and that from stamp taxes at the bridges. It turns out that there is relatively no difference between the two figures. In the article of the budget dealing with income tax, the 'civil administration' expects to levy a sum of IS160 million, while the income from bridge stamp taxes will be IS400 million. It should be remembered that the residents of the occupied areas pay taxes at much reduced levels from those adopted in Israel. More business activity and higher profits would be needed to equalise levels of payment.

If, in the end, the official income from income tax is similar to that from bridge stamp taxes, we learn something about the role of services in the West Bank as an economic business.

And since the subject of income is being discussed, one should note a special provision which does not exist in Israel: 'enemy funds' which come from Jordan to the West Bank. This is a relatively new item which began to bear fruit for the military government after it imposed strict restrictions on bringing in money from outside the West Bank.

There are two kinds of 'enemy money': money which is allowed to come in, either as salaries for Jordanian employees or as aid to the councils and institutions, which has the approval of the 'civil administration'; and money which is not allowed, or which exceeds the sum which is allowed. This second category is a not insignificant source of income. According to the orders of the military government, they can levy 'ransom' at a certain rate in return for freeing 'banned' money. So a person or an institution which brings in unapproved money is forced to pay a ransom of 10 percent. Sometimes the entire sum is confiscated. This money goes into a special fund called a 'development fund' which is intended for development projects in the area. It is not possible to find details in the 'civil administration' budget book, but reliable estimates put it at 10s of millions of shekels.

These are examples of the different opportunities Israel has to pocket large sums of money in relation to the investment required. But the general picture of the West Bank budget shows that despite this, the expenses of the government are still higher than income. For example, the budget shows that out of the general budget of IS 5.7 billion, the government pays out IS 2.4 billion. Consequently, it is possible to conclude that the maintenance of services in the West Bank, excluding military expenses, costs the government a great deal of money which is not covered by income. It seems to me that this conclusion is hasty, because it is possible to cover government expenses of IS 2.4 billion by adding up many items which are not clearly expressed in the budget or income tax book.

For example, the income tax paid by the West Bank and Gaza Strip workers who work in Israel was not taken into account. In accordance with reasonable estimates, this tax is IS 8 billion annually. Their payments for national insurance were also ignored. The taxes which the population of the occupied territories pay on the goods they purchase from Israel, and the taxes which the government levies on fuel sold to the West Bank population also are not totalled.

Presumably there are other items like these which decisively affect the balance of payments between Israel and the West Bank. There is no possibility of including payments like these in the budget book which deals with the West Bank, as it has an independent system with no apparent connection with Israel. But it seems to me that in general there is no possibility of ignoring the strong economic integration of the two populations.

The conclusion is that, despite the registered 'loss' of IS 2.4 billion as expressed in the budget, the West Bank cannot be called a 'burden on the shoulders of the Israeli citizen.' Moreover, in a vicious way, it is possible to estimate that the state of Israel even makes money as a result of the occupation. But it is difficult to estimate how much. If this is the situation, a question poses itself: why should services of the local courts cost the residents as much as they do? Why should taxes for crossing the bridge be so high (IS 1400 for each person, and IS 850 miscellaneous taxes)? Why is the development budget so small? If we deal with the West Bank as a closed and separate system, we have to consider the money which the government levies from residents of the West Bank, and within the borders of Israel, and deduct from them the expenses, and devote the rest to the welfare of the residents.

If we deal with the West Bank as a system incorporated into Israel, and particularly if we talk about the application of Israeli law, then in fact it should be possible to grant equal services, and similar wages and benefits.

(Translation: HaAretz August 17, 1983)

SOLDIER AND SETTLERS-- THEIR AIMS ARE THE SAME

by Shani Taylor

By a strange quirk of fate Al Fajr interviewed Hebron's acting-mayor Mustafa Natshe two days before he was removed from the municipality, along with the rest of the council, by the Israeli military authorities. Natshe himself elected deputy-mayor of the city in the elections of 1976, replaced Fahd Qawasmeh when the latter was expelled in 1980 in political reprisal for the Daboyya building operation when six settlers were killed.

In the past few months, Kiryat Arba settlers fingered Natshe as their primary enemy in the area. For a fortnight before he was removed from office, prominent settler leaders had been sitting-in at the local military governorate demanding the acting-mayor's ouster.

Q:What is your analysis of settlers' claims to Hebron?

A: It is true that there is property in the city which belonged to Jews before 1929 and there are a few old buildings. But they don't belong to settlers from the United States, Holland and Russia. The settlers who are coming to Kiryat Arba are fanatics. Their goal is to control two-thirds of the Old City of Hebron right to the boundaries of Kiryat Arba. Indeed one of the descendents of a Palestinian Jew from Hebron protested to us about the claims of these fanatics – he agreed that settling Hebron was an obstacle to peace.

Q: **What is the effect of these claims on day-to-day life in Hebron?**

A: Well first it must be understood that they wish to settle in a highly crowded city. Hebron has a population of 70,000 people. Even the Arab population has no room to expand. If Israelis are to settle here it means that Arabs must be forced out and their houses torn down, which is what is happening.

Generally they are trying to frighten us. They attack Arab houses which they claim, and they even shot a little girl during an assault on one house next to Kiryat Arba. The day before (that attack in February this year) a bomb exploded in front of al-Qazzan Mosque in the city injuring two people. But there are so many incidents of harassment by settlers.

Q: **What is the council doing about this?**

A: We have got an interim injunction from the Israeli High Court against the construction of 24 houses exclusively for Jewish settlers to be built on a site where Arab houses were destroyed. After the first grenade attack on June 19 when the military authorities closed down the bus station (another area of potential settlement), we went again to the Supreme Court to seek an additional injunction. The same day the military authorities took the barbed wire away because they knew they had no right to have put it there. The settlers were angry. They demolished electric pylons belonging to the municipality which they claim were on land belonging to the settlement, and burned two buses. The second bus blaze came after another supposed grenade attack by an Arab, but we don't believe there was a grenade attack. The council sent a cable to the military authorities.

Q: **Is there a pattern to the recent escalation of violence in Hebron?**

A: If the city is quiet, the settlers cannot achieve their goals. They are waiting for something to happen, or they're planning it. We don't believe that the two recent grenade attacks – if they actually were grenades – were carried out by Arabs. Why would a Palestinian throw a grenade in the market, an area crowded with Arabs? We believe the settlers are planning to provoke an incident so they can take more land.

Look how they began the process of settling Jews in Hebron since the occupation. Look how they took the Dabboya building. The wife of Kiryat Arba leader Moshe Levinger and two of her children broke into the building in 1979. It was used as an UNRWA school store and a military post. They were evicted by the army but returned shortly afterwards and were allowed to stay. In 1980, visiting settlers were attacked and six killed. In the curfew that followed 16 shops were destroyed, including one belonging to a man famous for his physical defence of Jews in the 1929 massacre. The Daboyya building was renamed Hadassah and established as the first part of a Jewish quarter in the city.

Later there was a second incident and the Usama Ben Munqeth school fell into the hands of settlers. A settler passed by and an Arab tried to stab him. His house was demolished and a curfew was declared in central Hebron. Seven hundred elementary school children were expelled from the school.

Any building where they settle is immediately surrounded by the Israeli army and Arab residents are forced to leave 'for security reasons.' In effect they jump from one property to another using any incident as an excuse. It is impossible to argue that these properties were all owned by Jews.

Q: **You have appealed to the military against the settlers, but what power does the army have to control the settlers? More importantly, do you believe they will?**

A: As we see it, the settlers have political power and influence on the Israeli government and even if the army wanted to, they could not stand up to them. But there is no real difference between the objectives of the army and the settlers. Sometimes we find that the army covers up for the settlers' illegal activities. For example, the officer in charge of electricity said we had put up pylons without his permission.

Mustafa Natshe.

Q: **How do you see the settlers' strike inside the military governor's compound – is this an indication of contradictions between the settlers and the army?**

A: No. The strike is really a publicity stunt. I stopped the settlers through the court on the issue of electricity pylons and the proposed building of Jewish housing where they demolished Arab houses and they are angry.

Q: **Aside from demanding greater power for themselves, including the right to establish a civil guard to serve as a police force and the relaxation of the army rules concerning the firing of weapons during demonstrations, the settlers are also demanding your dismissal, accusing you of being a member of the PLO.**

A: This is nonsense. I am a Palestinian and like any other Palestinian I recognise the PLO as our sole legitimate representative. I am not a member.

Q: **Are you hopeful for the future?**

A: At the moment I am not hopeful, but I do believe that the law must be applied equally to all. To those Arabs who throw stones and receive prison terms of 15 years and to those who shoot Arabs and are not even arrested.

AN INTERVIEW WITH ROY SKINNER

THE 'SECURITY' RESTRICTIONS ON UNRWA

by Daoud Kuttab

UNRWA operations director for the West Bank, in an interview with *Al Fajr* regarding major problems facing UNRWA-run Palestinian refugee camps, defended charges by camp residents that the UN agency is not doing enough the relieve the suffering of the camp population. Recently, refugees have complained that UNRWA has not reacted strongly to reports of a plan sponsored by minister without portfolio Mordechai Ben Porat to relocate and scatter refugees outside camps.

Roy Skinner conceded that the UNRWA is powerless other than to check with the Israeli authorities and to raise this issue with Vienna headquarters. He explained repeatedly that he is a civil servant and not a politician, that UNRWA has no territorial authority and operates according to a mandate to provide services for the Palestinian refugees. Skinner agreed that his office could do more informational work, issue more press statements informing the media of Israeli actions and, at the same time, assure Palestinian camp residents of steps that are being taken to alleviate problems.

The major dilemma facing the head of UNRWA is the repeated claim by the Israeli military authorities that their actions against the West Bank camps and UNRWA institutions – sealing roads, destroying houses, closing social clubs – are for 'security' reasons. Skinner notes that the Israeli authorities are not obliged to detail the security reason, although in many cases which involve UNRWA-supervised institutions or personnel, he insists on knowing what the security reason actually is. Skinner admitted, however, that most times the authorities refuse to give any details of "what constitutes the security threat."

On one occasion, related Skinner, on December 13, 1981, the Kalandia refugee camp was punished by curfews, arrests and club closures after a film was shown there about Omar al-Mukhtar (a film shown previously all over the West Bank). When Skinner arrived at the camp and asked to know the reasons for the authorities' actions, the Ramallah military governor told him that it was for "many security reasons." The UNRWA director, who has been in the Middle East for the past 16 years, says that Israel's justifications are based on an agreement made between UNRWA and the Israeli government immediately after the 1967 war, in which both sides agreed that "UNRWA will continue carrying out its services subject only to regulations which may be necessitated by considerations of 'military security arrangements'."

In response to *Al Fajr*'s inquiry as to the success rate of the contacts he makes with the Israeli government, Skinner notes that it is usually very difficult to get the authorities to retract a decision which has a specific time period, like the closure of a higher education institute for three months. But Skinner explains that he usually has success in getting needed services of health, food, garbage collection and water to curfewed areas. He notes, however, that getting the military authorities to agree can take anywhere between one hour and three days. Skinner also stated that every problem of inconvenience to camp residents or delay in UNRWA services is reviewed with the authorities within one hour of his knowledge of it. Below are Skinner's written answers to questions about major problems facing the Palestinian refugees:

Q: **What is UNRWA's response to the 'Ben Porat plan' for the 'rehabilitation' of refugees?**

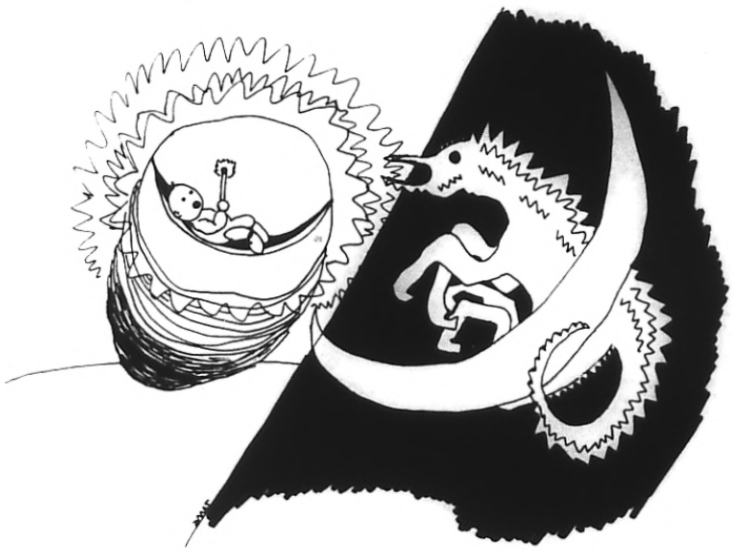
A: According to recent official information received by the Agency, there is no plan yet. Groups of experts have submitted ideas, proposals, etc. to the chairman of the ministerial committee, minister without portfolio, Mr M Ben Porat. When a plan is submitted to the government, it will be on the basis that no refugee family will be forced to accept new housing in or outside the present camps – any move will be voluntary. The government will seek special funds for whatever plan is decided by them.

The Agency would object if refugees were forced to accept the plan. The Agency has a mandate to provide services and it will continue to do so to refugees in and out of the refugee camps according to their eligibility. The Agency has never objected to the voluntary move of refugees to accommodation out of the camps in towns and villages.

Continued on page 13

The Cycle of Songs and Dawns

by Said al-Ghazali



Of the murdered verses in his eyes,
Of the wing-trimmed birds
Of the stormy heart and the latest war —
How could I write?

From his eyes flow endless meteors,
Endless flocks of birds, I was left to ask
Does he come as a calm sea or
Is it a stormy crystal gaze that haunts his eyes?

A thousand stars glowed on his forehead
Whose eyes shone life and darkness.
A thousand larks whirled around
And spoke of songs and seasons!

Have you a name, new-born baby?

"Dawn," said he,
And the meadows poured their green mystery,
The blue globe smiled
It's the whole universe an eternally lit star.

"Dawn, do you bring
Any secrets or news about the wind?"
The people wait patiently
Are you coming with the seasons,
Or is it time to meet? Now, now, now is the dawn
The earth is a pretty woman, a jasmine,
What would Dawn say?

I'm the genius ballad, pregnant with life,
The cycle, the hope.

But Dawn, it's only death that comes,
The paintings bleed their colour and
Beyond the horizon blackbirds crowd
And, everyday, we, in vain,
Search for colourful songs, moons and rainbows.
And every day famine sets up its tents,
Poverty, death and war are all we have.

Dawn! You the genius song,
How could we wage a constant war?

I'm the blooming flower
Life and history meet in me,
I'm the gift for the proletariat
The gift that blooms with the songs.

Dawn! But what about war and death and hunger?
What of my mother, killed in the war,
My young ones, my pretty wife?

The brave knight departed
Only to come again
A new-born Dawn embodying
The force of life,
The secrets of resistance.

You, dignified knight!
The black war left me alone
Killed my songs.

"Hush, you fool," he shouted
And departed again,
Only to come back and whisper
Haven't you heard my freshest song?
You'll never lose me,
I'll always bear something new!

And the brave knight left
Perhaps to embrace his Shaharazade, who
Under the sun tells her tale.

Have you a name, new-born baby?

I'm the genius song on the hungry lips,
The calm song that hangs over,
The victory of the proletariat.
And because I'm all those,
I'll write of the murdered poems in his eyes,
The wing-trimmed birds,
The stormy sea and the latest war
Every
D-A-W-N.

(Tranalated from Al-Fajr al-Adabi, No. 29).

The Martyr's Revival

by Abd al-Nasser Saleh

first entrance

Exactly as the tears freeze within the eyes,
As this lilac dew is deprived of colour,
Or as the poor collapse into their graves,
I now commence my death
Enter the season of famine —
Burdened by the country's concerns —
I beg the soil and
Wonder how much blood is spent.

second entrance

This land witnesses
How a pommel falls down on bare ribs,
How the evening wind penetrates the wings
And I,
I'll commence my own death
Dig up my own grave, and sure I am
That the troubled graves
Recognise their newcomers
Though no previous encounter is made.

the poor

I cry: Take me to the land of distant snows
To meet my country
Take me, but don't
Block the sea, or
Murder the ebb beyond me, or
(As the stars expire)
Block the sun..., and sure I am,
That we'll meet!
And the embryos' sun will rise within their mothers' corpses
And the poor will speed toward their homes.

the song

The land is ready for a union,
I know because I —
A lover, distributed like peaceful clouds
On its throbbing coastal line —
Watch across the borders
See the dignified horse pushing through
And witness the treaty of treason
Murdered.
Because the Land is omnipresent
Let fire go mad,
Let hatred boil and hurt,
Let starvation loose,
Let sadness top the heavens...!
Nothing remains but the Land;
You who stand on its beach: Go on
You who cross into its dreams: Go on
And you, the poor, Go on,
Go on,
Go on.

(Translated from Al Fajr al-Adabi, No. 34).

Abd al-Nasser Saleh, 26, is a senior year student at al-Najah University in Nablus. He published two collections of poetry in 1979 and 1982. His works have appeared in most literary magazines and newspapers in the country.

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS

The continued turmoil and bloodshed throughout Lebanon was the major topic of Palestinian papers published in the occupied territories this week. The shelling of Beirut airport and the consequent behind-the-scene negotiations were both given importance.

The PLO Central Committee delegation entrusted with solving the intra-Palestinian and Palestinian-Syrian conflicts continued its series of meetings with parties involved and was given full support.

A major local story was the Israeli authorities' decision to close the bimonthly magazine Al Shira'. The closure decision was seen as a threat of a new campaign against the whole national press in the occupied territories.

Lebanese Crisis

The renewed armed clashes in the Shouf mountains and the bombardment of Beirut are the outcome of the indecisive and unsettled political atmosphere in Lebanon.

On the one hand, there is an isolationist regime that represents one sole political party trying to extend its control over all of the country by employing the persuasive powers of fascism and by making use of foreign forces. On the other, there is the continued Israeli occupation of vast areas of Lebanon. Yet again, there is the military and political presence of the US, which is trying to transform Lebanon into an American protectorate.

In this sort of tense and explosive atmosphere, fascist assaults against nationalist elements and others opposed to the spread of Phalangist hegemony in Lebanon are becoming more pronounced.

It is only to be expected that these elements will take up arms to defend themselves and their country in the face of mounting dangers.

The perpetuation of the Israeli occupation, the American intervention and the fascist ruling regime only means a perpetuation of the crisis in Lebanon.

AL SHAAB
August 11

Hope of the Faithful

The outstretched hand of Palestinian leaders, inviting Syria to transcend differences of opinion and seize the opportunity to close ranks, will not be withdrawn.

The Palestinians are proffering their hand to Syria, but not at the expense of their independence and integrity, for their freedom of action and thought transcends all other considerations.

PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat has declared the gates wide open for the resumption of a dialogue with Syria aimed at resolving all disputes, and they will remain open — to all who respect the independence and legitimacy of the PLO, they were never once shut.

But all those who have taken upon themselves the underhanded task of sabotaging the cause of the Palestinians, of subjugating their will and imposing a spurious 'trusteeship' upon them, will be unable to pass through.

The Palestinians have a big heart, capable of absorbing all shocks and surpassing machinations and intrigues directed against them. They have the will to stand up to challenges, nurse their wounds and move bravely ahead, despite their injuries, to achieve their objectives, chief of which is to effect a rapprochement with sister Arab states.

If Syria responds to the Palestinian overtures in the same spirit of cooperation and brotherly love, then the two can walk hand in hand towards their common goal.

AL FAJR
August 12

Refugees

Lebanon is beset with problems of often desperate magnitude, and we as Palestinians living in the occupied territories, share with it its dreams of achieving peace and tranquility.

But there have been some profoundly disturbing developments lately that can lead only to more violence, chaos and bloodshed. Some Lebanese factions, filled with the kind of hate that spawned the Sabra and Shatila massacres, are trying to divert the struggle to rebuild Lebanon by promulgating a scheme to arrest and evict all the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

To engage in such a vindictive campaign against the Palestinian refugees indicates that the darker side of Lebanese nationalism believes more in the demerits of racial discrimination and blind hatred, than in the merits of national reconstruction.

Let the Lebanese government bear this well in mind: the fate of those Palestinian camps on its soil is an historic responsibility, a trust placed in its hands, for which it must render accounts.

At a time when international pressure is mounting for a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, the Arab nations and the world community must take immediate steps to safeguard the lives of the Palestinian refugees — if they want to avoid another bloodbath.

AL QUDS
August 12

Comptroller's Report on Kufr Yasif

It was only to be expected that the state-owned *Al Anba'* newspaper would splash the state comptroller's report on Kufr Yasif on its front page. But for the state comptroller to put his signature to such a report in the first place appalls and astonishes us.

The head of Kufr Yasif's local council, Nimr Murcos, has refuted the allegations in the report and the press which spoke of several irregularities and contraventions.

The report failed to specify that the irregularities took place during the tenure of the previous local council and that it was the current council which drew the state comptroller's attention in the first place to those irregularities and contraventions.

The present council, which represents the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, demanded an investigation at the time, but was ignored.

The report glosses over the pivotal role the present council played in overcoming the debacle in 1981 and alleviating the depradations it caused — there was not even one word of thanks for its selfless efforts.

The Kufr Yasif local council has fallen prey, like all its sister councils, to the official policy of racial discrimination. It sought litigation several times and sometimes won its case — the state comptroller should have hinted at this, but kept his peace. Isn't this neglect terrible?

We have always believed the state comptroller's office to be a bastion of democracy, where complaints could find a ready ear. But we are disappointed at its failure to take all the relevant facts into consideration in the case of Kufr Yasif.

We call upon all those papers that fell over themselves in publishing the state comptroller's report to give equal space to the statement by Murcos to quell, at least, any suspicion that the state comptroller's office has itself, too, entered the election battle.

We also call upon the state comptroller to reply in detail to the points raised by Murcos, since it is possible that some of his officials may have presented him with incomplete reports. As for the state comptroller's office, we pray that it will always be there.

AL ITTIHAD
August 14

Mc Farlane's Abortive Mission

The label which characterised the erstwhile US envoy in the Middle East, Philip Habib, was a blunt 'disassembler'. Habib, the roving ambassador, was branded a liar for the very simple reason that he delighted in inventing 'events' and had no qualms about resorting to fabrications in order to push matters along the way he wanted them to go, or rather the way the US-Israeli master plan called for.

But it didn't take long for Habib to be unmasked, for the network of lies, inventions and fabrications to crumble into dust, when faced with the grim determination of the PLO, the national Lebanese movements, and Syria to confront the US-Israeli conspirators.

And now, we have McFarlane, shuttling from capital to capital, day after day, in a futile endeavour to cover up the lies his predecessor uttered, and give a fresh impetus to the self-same US-Israeli master plan.

McFarlane has been encouraged by what the US is falsely led to believe are signs of a change in the atmosphere.

But McFarlane and the US could not be more wrong. In fact, his mission was doomed even before he set foot in the area.

AL FAJR
August 16

Refugee Resettlement in US

CBS news, August 11, revealed a State Department-initiated study whereby up to 50,000 Palestinians from Lebanon could be admitted to the US. The *Washington Post* wrote the next day that government officials have contradicted each other about how the study, which will be published in full by a Washington-based newsletter entitled "Middle East Policy Survey", was brought about.

Some officials told the *Washington Post* that the study envisioned letting up to 50,000 into the US. The study, those officials said, is still under consideration, despite the belief that such an idea would be vehemently opposed by both Congress and the public. The Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs of the State Department is quoted by the *Washington Post* as acknowledging that they "are looking at the possibility of a refugee admission programme for certain Palestinians in Lebanon." The *Post* also reports that government officials said that the study was a result of Aren's and Shamir's recent visit to Washington and their talks with Shultz.

At the State Department, August 12, department spokesperson Hughes said that Secretary of State George Shultz has always had a keen interest in the plight of the Palestinian refugees. The secretary, Hughes continued, asked for studies into ways of helping Palestinians and some preliminary drafting was done. This particular option of allowing 10,000 or 50,000 into the US, Hughes said, was not one that the secretary had ordered. He would not specify what other options were being looked into. He did say that work is continuing, however, on other areas which will help the plight of the Palestinians.

The idea of admitting a large number of Palestinians to the US, Hughes said, was drafted as impractical. The leak to the press, and particularly to a publication known for its pro-Israel stance, is of concern to Palestinian circles here.

Rashid Khalidi, a Palestinian professor at Georgetown University, said he was apprehensive about such American plans. Other Palestinians who chose not to be identified were outrightly critical of these plans, which they say are a fulfillment of Israel and Lebanon's dreams. One of the Israeli government's objectives in last year's war, and that of the Lebanese government after the war, these Palestinians say, was to push as many Palestinians as possible out of Lebanon. This American scheme, they conclude, is in full compliance with these Israeli wishes.

NATSHE REBUFFED AT JORDAN'S BRIDGE

Dr Ahmad Hamzeh Natshe, a prominent Hebronite, was told at the bridge across the Jordan he is considered *persona non grata* by the authorities in Jordan, when he was turned back, August 5.

The measure, the first known against a national figure in the West Bank, was seen locally as another Jordanian step against the Palestinians after the break-off of talks between them and the PLO.

Dr Natshe, deposed director of the government-run Hussein Hospital in Beit Jala, was handed back his passport on the Jordanian side of the bridge and told that he was "unwanted." When he inquired as to the reasons for this step, he was told that the orders had come from "high ranking" officials.

Before his abortive trip, Dr Natshe was under an Israeli travel ban imposed two years ago. The measure is regarded as the most serious of many other similar restrictions imposed on Palestinian residents of the occupied territories. Local analysts agrue that there is a link between the restriction against Natshe and current Israeli and Jordanian authorities' efforts to install Jordanian-backed figures to top municipal posts.

Dr Natshe is among leading West Bank figures known for their opposition to Jordanian influence in the occupied territories. In 1976, he was the strongest mayoral candidate in the Hebron municipal elections.

A few months before elections, Natshe was deported to Jordan, apparently to prevent him from entering the race. He was allowed to return to Hebron in 1979. The Israelis did not give him back his old job at the Hussein Hospital, however.

Ibrahim Dakkak, chairman of the Jerusalem-based Engineers Union, expressed astonishment at the Jordanian authorities' measure. "How can a passport holder of a certain country be prevented from entering it?" he wondered. He hoped that the measure does not represent a new policy "which would increase problems for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories."

ANSAR POW NO 'TERRORIST', SAYS FRG

The West German government complained recently to Israel about the continued detention of a US citizen in Ansar POW camp. Germany says that Samih al-Yusef, held since last summer in Ansar POW camp, South Lebanon, has committed no terrorist offences in their territory, is facing no charges and they are not seeking his extradition.

Israel announced al-Yusef had been involved in plans to bomb a train in Germany, after his detention was publicised in the US. The Washington-based Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee took up his and another US citizen Ansar detainee's case and retained Professor Richard Arens, brother of Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens, to represent them. Israel countered that al-Yusef would be brought to trial for the alleged offences committed in West Germany.

According to relatives of al-Yusef, the West German government contacted Israel in early June and asked them to release the detainees.

Israel claims extraterritorial jurisdiction and has unique legislation allowing Israeli courts to try people charged with offences — under Israeli law — committed outside the boundaries of the state. The West German government does not have to acknowledge that any offence was committed for prosecution to go ahead.

Foothold in al-Aqsa?

In what observers see as the first legal step towards permitting Jews full access to Islam's third holiest shrine, al-Aqsa Mosque, members of the ultra-right 'Temple Mount Faithful' held prayers outside the main gate to the shrine, July 19, after the Israeli High Court lifted the ban against them the previous day.

During the prayer, which was carried out under police protection in front of al-Magharbeh gate, the group of 30 people raised a Hebrew sign expressing their desire to take over the mosque.

It is not clear how the group obtained the court order authorising their prayer.

Hatem Abd al-Qadar, spokesman for the Islamic *waqf* committee, condemned the Israeli court step and warned against further moves which would pave the way towards Israeli takeover of the mosque.

The 'Temple Mount Faithful' advocates forceful Israeli settlement in the Old City of Jerusalem. Group leader Rabbi Gershon Solomon and others in the group have been involved in a number of attempts to wrest physical control over the mosque. The latest occured several months ago, when Solomon led an aborted attempt to scale the mosque walls. The group was also involved in a number of attempts to pray in front of the main entrance, but were prevented from doing so each time by Muslim worshippers and policemen.

Continued from page 10

UNRWA

Q: What action is being taken to protest the military authorities' closure of main entrances to three camps – Arroub, Dheisheh and Kalandia?

A: The Agency has actively followed up this matter from the beginning (on the agenda every week) with the military authorities, who have informed the Agency that life within the camps would not be made unbearable and that Agency services, including voiding of latrines and the maintenance of a healthy environment, will not be prejudiced.

The Agency is to have further discussions with the authorities and if the latter cannot agree to remove all the barricades, the Agency has proposals to submit to restore normal movement into and within the camps.

Q: What about the continued closure of youth activities centres – in Kalandia, Dheisheh, Fawwar, Balata, Aida and Jalazon camps?

A: The Agency maintains contact with the military authorities and presses for the reopening of the YACs. On May 17 the Tulkarm YAC was re-opened. On February 15 Balata YAC was re-opened but it was closed again on February 24. Arroub YAC was re-opened.

The military authorities have informed the Agency that the still-closed centres are closed because of security considerations and thay they could be re-opened when there are acceptable assurances from members of the YACs and the communities in which they are located that the centres will be used only for the purposes for which they were organised: community assistance, sports and cultural activities. The Agency will continue to make representations to the authorities.

Q: What are the general conditions of refugees and what UNRWA services are rendered to them?

A: The Agency's services and the normal services within the community reach the refugees whether they live in camps or not. Less than 25 precent of the refugees live in the 19 occupied refugee camps in the West Bank.

To the special hardship group — aged, sick, widows, orphans, etc. — rations continue to be provided and efforts are being made for finding additional services to this group.

Schools are being expanded for the increasing pupil population and some new schools are being constructed and planned. Health services are being expanded, for example a new health centre is under construction in Hebron, and school health — including dental services — are being improved to place the effective preventive health programmes on a higher level than ever before; early detection of deficiencies, general health, plus sight, hearing and dental care.

The new registration cards for individual refugees should be available for collection throughout the West Bank in September. Refugees entitled to all services will receive an 'R' card — ie on the same basis as before the general ration programme was restricted to the hardship cases (the welfare group during the Lebanon war). As in the past also, refugees in the 'N' category, registered refugees not eligible for services, can receive individual registration cards. The major change is from family registration cards to individual cards. All these cards should be available from September.

Regarding the comprehensive exam, we follow the system of the host country. In this case we are obliged to follow the decision of the Jordanian cabinet which instituted a common exam for all 2 and 3-year colleges. We understand the problems facing our students in the West Bank and have informed them that they are free to decide whether to sit for the exams or not. On our part, we are willing to give our students who have successfully completed their programmes a diploma. We will not be involved in decisions made by host governments. We have in the past asked for a grace period to prepare ourselves for the exams and the Jordanian government has granted our requests for the past two years.

WEEKLY REVIEW

August 10, 1983

NO CASE

HAIFA — The Central Haifa court has thrown out a case brought before it by the Islamic committee which oversees Muslim Religious Trust (*waqf*) properties in Haifa.

The committee had asked the court to return jurisdiction of the *bourj* (tower) site in the Carmel quarter of Haifa to the *waqf*. The Israeli army took over the site which is occupied by an Islamic school, built before the establishment of the state of Israel.

KAHANE SUES JOURNALIST

JERUSALEM — Meir Kahane, the leader of the extremist Kach (Thus) movement, is complaining against *Al Fajr* (English) reporter Daoud Kuttab, and *The Jerusalem Post* over an article penned by Kuttab recently.

Kahane claimed that on August 5, Kuttab wrote an article for the *Post* indirectly voicing his support for attacks against members of the Israeli aremy.

He charged that Kuttab's contention that all Israelis should bear the responsibility for the assault on Hebron University is to be construed as justification for Arab attacks against Jews.

KIDS SHOW OFF

JERUSALEM — An exhibition of West Bank Arab children's paintings and sketches is being held at the children's summer camp in Ram, a suburb of Jerusalem.

Organisers said the camp has been very popular, and several children, from many nearby areas, participated in its activities.

CREATING CLAUSTROPHOBIA

JERICHO — Hundreds of West Bankers were turned back from the bridges yesterday. In addition, scores of trucks laden with West Bank agricultural produce, destined for markets in Jordan, were forced to turn back with their full loads. In Jenin, meanwhile, blank travel permit forms are unavailable.

Thousands of West Bank students who passed their *tawjihi* examination are waiting for travel permits, following an Israeli government decision to lift the ban on their travel movements.

According to some sources, the security officials at the bridges acted on their own initiative to turn back the travellers from Hebron without consultation with higher authorities.

SHOOTING

TULKARM — Israeli police launched an investigation into a complaint by a resident of Ras Attiyeh village, in the Tulkarm district, that two Israelis broke into his house and shot him. He is hospitalised in Nablus.

SETTLERS WRECKING

HEBRON — Jewish settlers have torn down the old Dabboya building in Hebron. All that is left of the structure is the old wall adjoining the main street. The operation was carried out over the past few days.

DEVELOPMENT

RAMLEH — Ramleh municipal council has drawn up a development plan, encompassing Lydda and Ramleh. One priority is to pave two roads in the old quarter of the town.

A new company, expressly formed for the development of the two towns, has been pressing Arab residents to move out of old Ramleh. Their homes are being levelled, but the compensation paid to residents is hardly enough to cover a fraction of the cost of a new house in another part of town.

MARKETS

HALHOUL — The little town of Halhoul, at the entrance to Hebron, will soon have its own fruit and vegetable market. Municipal authorities are looking into bids by several contractors to build the market. Plans have already been drawn up and ratified. Construction work is expected to commence within the next few days.

In Rafah, in the Gaza Strip, the second stage of the construction of the town's commercial sector has been completed.

Municipal authorities have pulled down all unlicensed stalls to make way for the new shopping centre.

ECONOMIC WOES

NAZARETH — The Chairman of the Regional Arab Secondary School Students organisation, Samir Suleiman, sent a cable of protest to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and education minister Zeveulan Hammer, labelling the new economic policy "disasterous."

He urged the government to change its plans to introduce wide-scale cuts in the education budget.

August 11, 1983

MORE BEACH TROUBLE

TAYBEH — A Civil Defence guard prevented an Arab worker from the West Bank from swimming in the sea along the Netanya eachfront. The Israeli told the Arab bluntly that he did not like to see any Arabs from the West Bank in Netanya, but when the Arab protested and tried to enter the water, the beach's lifeguard on duty threw him off the beach.

QAWASMEH TOUR

AMMAN — The deposed mayor of Hebron, Fahd Qawasmeh, has left Jordan on a Central American tour.

RECRUITING SETTLERS

JERUSALEM — Israeli building contractors in West Jerusalem have established a registration office in Washington to provide prospective settlers with guidance and infonnation and to organise tours to Jerusalem. They want to sell Jerusalem apartments to 1000 US Jewish families.

EITAN ON REVENGE

JERUSALEM — Former Israeli chief of staff Rafael Eitan told a prison audience that if the Arabs do not want to sign a peace treaty with Israel, they will be placing their lives on the line. Israel "does not give a damn," he noted, since the peace treaty is the Arabs', not the Israelis', problem.

On the other hand, Eitan said he disapproved of imposing the death penalty on captured Palestinian commandos, since this would not deter the PLO. The Palestinians could capture Israeli soldiers and take revenge upon them if one of their comrades was condemned to death, he asserted.

UNIONS MEET

JERUSALEM — The special committees formed to coordinate nion activities and affairs in llah and Jerusalem met at fices of the Union of Hotel estaurant owners here to ways and means of strengthe labor movement and ng their unity.

The meeting also dwelt on the need to enhance cultural activities and urged unions to encourage programmes, such as the publication of a newsletter or magazine.

The committee members also discussed the proposed comprehensive health scheme that would involve all union members.

GAZA RESULTS

GAZA — Preliminary results of the *tawjihi* (matriculation) certificate examinations in Gaza show that 59.7 percent passed in the literary stream and 74.1 percent in the science stream.

The examinations are coordinated with the Egyptain authorities. Girls scored the highest marks; Khadijah Mustafa Muraja came in first and Fatima Durgham second.

VICTIM OF FLARE

KHAN YUNIS — Seven-year-old Fawzi Mohammad Nawajha from Khan Younis, in the Gaza Strip, was injured in the face and legs when a flare he stumbled on exploded.

Two visiting professors, Noel McMara and Bill Hawthorne (at the blackboard), are lecturing in a month-long course for West Bank teachers in modern mathematics and teaching methodology at Bir Zeit university. The course is sponsored by the British Council./JN

The child was rushed to al-Nasr hospital.

August 12, 1983

FIGHTING FORCE

According to reports reaching here, Palestinian units have now been resupplied with automatic light weapons, to make up for losses suffered during the Israeli invasion.

Palestinian forces now total about 9000 active fighters, scattered in three different strongholds; 5000 in the Beqa'a, 3000 in Tripoli and the surrounding refugee camps, and 1000 inside Beirut. The main firepower is concentrated in the Beqa'a. The famous Karameh and Yarmuk brigades are entrenched in the Metn mountains.

Reports say the Syrian forces are surrounded by a belt of Palestinian fighters, similar to the Israeli security belt provided by Major Sa'ad Haddad.

BZU GRADUATES

BIR ZEIT — Bir Zeit university held commencement exercises for its graduates in a simple and short ceremony. It had earlier been postponed because of the massacre at Hebron University.

COLLEGE BY JORDAN

NABLUS — Prominent figures in Nablus have begun a drive to obtain official recognition by the Jordanian educational authorities for a proposed community college in the city.

VOLUNTEER'S BIRTHDAY

JERUSALEM — The Higher Committee for Voluntary Work in Gaza and the West Bank celebrated its third anniversary with a party attended by representatives from labour unions, social and cultural clubs, the students movement and national institutions.

EXIT PERMITS

QALQILIYA — The Israeli military authorities lifted current travel restrictions imposed on residents of Qalqiliya.

COLLEGE

ABU DIS — The Israeli authorities have approved plans by Abu Dis College of Science, near Jerusalem, to extend the course of studies to a third year.

August 13, 1983

AIRPORT ATTACK

TAIBEH — Israeli border guards manning the roadblock at the eastern entrance to Lydda Airport assaulted several villagers from Taybeh. The youths said they were going to see a friend off, but were asked to get out of their car and questioned separately when they got to the airport.

The youths claimed they were insulted and beaten up for no apparent reason other than that they happened to be in possession of the communist newspaper *Al Ittihad*.

The border guards allegedly called them "Arab dogs", "commies", and "Yasir Arafat's men."

THREE BOMBS

JERUSALEM — Israeli police dismantled three separate bombs placed in the Central Court on Salah al-Din Street, East Jerusalem.

The bombs were discovered at about 9:30 pm.

WEDDING FEUD

NABLUS — Police said 15 people were injured in a family fracas that erupted during wedding festivities in the village of Hawwara, near Nablus. One man suffered serious injuries and had to be operated on at Rafidiya hospital. Police arrested 20 people for questioning.

DISCRIMINATION

JERUSALEM — Israeli courts have been handing out drastically contrasting sentences to Jewish and Arab criminal offenders, accused of having committed the same crime, according to a recent survey.

An official two-year survey studied several cases involving scores of Arab and Jewish drug peddlars nabbed in a police dragnet covering Jerusalem and the southern region, and revealed that the courts are imposing substantially heavier sentences on Arabs than on Jews.

BEACH DROWNINGS

GAZA — Four Arab youths lost their lives in separate drowning incidents off the Gaza beaches in the past two days. The dead included a 13-year-old child, Nahed Yousef Sa'ad Na'man.

Waves dragged 14-year-old Subhi Shehade Nour al-Din to his death. Rescue attempts were hampered by the huge waves yesterday.

A Beer Sheba resident, Suleiman Huweishly, 20, was also fished out of the sea yesterday, but was pronounced dead.

ANTI-RAT CAMPAIGN

GAZA — The Gaza municipality has launched a campaign to rid the Strip of rats and other harmful rodents, in a move coordinated with UNRWA and the military ealth department.

Fifteen experts have been enrolled in the battle which has so far netted 400 rodent fatalities. Tons of pesticides have been used and citizens are being issued poisoned baits for use against the disease-carrying animals.

August 14, 1983

PEDDLARS

GAZA — Produce vendors from Gaza are banned from the centre of Ashdod. Ashdod municipality passed a new by-law outlawing the sale of goods and products by vendors living outside a 25-kilometre perimeter in the town's central market.

Ashdod residents have bought from Gazans since the 1967 war because of the competitive price of the goods they offer.

TEACHERS WITHOUT JOBS

JERUSALEM — A delegation of West Bank teachers, forcibly retired by the Israeli authorities, left for Amman.

The group, representing a large number of teachers who have been forced out of jobs before reaching retirement age, will meet with Jordanian officials to seek government support in view of the difficult economic conditions prevalent in the West Bank.

TO UNRWA HQ

JERUSALEM — Rashid Arakat, a representative of the executive committee of UNRWA employees in the West Bank, has left for Vienna via Amman to meet with UNRWA officials at the organisation's headquarters. He is expected to discuss various problems connected with employee affairs and relations in the West Bank.

TRAVEL BLOWS

GAZA — Egyptian officials at the border crossing point at Rafah have been turning back Palestinian residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, for no apparent reason. Students claimed that they have valid documents entitling them to seek admission to Egyptian universities.

They claimed that last week an Egyptian official assaulted a Gazan who was on his way to Cairo in order to sign a contract for employment in Saudi Arabia.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

JERUSALEM — Three bandits held up two Arabs in a midnight robbery and stripped them of all their cash, gold and jewelry.

The Arabs, Atallah Ibrahim Suleiman and Ali Moussa Thaher, both on visits here, said their car was stopped at a makeshift roadblock. They were robbed of IS250,000 in cash, in addition to the jewelry they were wearing.

PRISON VISIT

JERUSALEM — A woman trying to visit her imprisoned husband in the Beer Sheba jail was beaten by prison guards. The woman, Mayassar Abu Sneineh, was trying to see her husband, who is serving 15 years in jail.

Prison authorities have banned any visits by family members. Reports said Mayassar sustained serious injuries as a result of the assault.

AL FAJR BOMB HOAX

JERUSALEM — An unidentified English speaker telephoned *Al Fajr* Arabic daily and said that a bomb placed in its main editorial offices was timed to go off at 7:00 pm.

Staff and police conducted a thorough search without finding anything.

TRAVEL OK FOR SOME

NABLUS — Residents of Anabta are still banned from travelling to Jordan. The ban also applies to some summer visitors on holiday with relatives in the West Bank.

CORPSE

JENIN — The corpse of Abd al-Jabbar Mohammad Amsei'at, a resident of the village of Ya'abad, in the Jenin district, was discovered in his home. He had been dead for four days. Police have begun an investigation.

August 15, 1983

PRISON STRIKES

JERUSALEM — Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails held a one-day hunger strike yesterday, to dramatise their solidarity with women prisoners in Neve Tirtza, and express their protest at the harsh treatment meted out to the Palestinian women.

The strike spread over the prison facilities at Ramle, Beer Sheba, Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Hebron, Gaza, Shatta, Beit Lid, Nafha and Ashkelon.

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

KUFR YASIF — The Israeli government has earmarked IS2.3 million for development projects in Kufr Yasif, a five-fold increase over the previous year.

Local council head Nimr Murcos, acknowledging the hike, stated that Arab local councils have been able to elicit such pledges, thanks to their unified stand, and their determination to take prompt action if the Interior Ministry refused to make further funds available for development projects.

AMBITIONS

JERUSALEM — An Israeli committee, given the task of conducting a feasibility study on the development of the Jordan valley lowlands (Ghor), has proposed the establishment of 25 moshavim-settlements to accommodate 45,000 projected Jewish settlers. The settlements would cover a total area of 85,000 dunums.

The committee also proposed a minimum income guarantee to those willing to settle in the Ghor of not less than IS 700,000 shekels a year. The settlements, scheduled to be ready for occupation within the next two years, will cost US$165,000,000.

SCHOLASTIC YEAR

JERUSALEM — The West Bank education department announced it was extending the school summer holidays to October 10, a month later than scheduled. This is the second year running that schools have opened late.

NAJAH CLOSES REGISTRATION

NABLUS — Najah University announced it will not accept any applications for the coming year at the time being, "for reasons beyond its control."

The university had said earlier it would begin processing applications today; a new date will be announced later. The school was ordered shut for three months in June following demonstrations.

LAND LOST

RAMALLAH — Landowners in the village of Walajah, near Bethlehem, protested to the military objections committee, after the government announced its decision to expropriate village land.

The committee ruled that lands with over 50 percent of their total acreage cultivated will not be subject to confiscation. Landowners have the right to appeal against the confiscation of the rest of the land, when the court resumes.

August 16, 1983

CLOSING IN ON HEBRON

HEBRON — Two new Israeli settlements are planned to be established near Hebron soon, as part of the government's plan to accelerate the tempo of Jewish settlement in the Hebron region, according to housing ministry reports.

The settlements, Susiba and Ma'aleh Habeer, will be built on Hebron's southern outskirts. Both will initially house 15 families from Kiryat Arba.

Reports said the Israeli Ministry of Housing is laying out a new road grid to link the various settlements in the region. The government has announced plans to transform south Hebron into a tourist centre.

FATHER HOSTAGE

Israeli police have arrested 52-year-old Khaled Hassan Faqiyeh, of the village of Qatannah, near Ramallah. Police have been looking for his two sons, Mohammed and Hassan, and said they would hold their father until they were caught or gave themselves up.

CATTLE DETAINED

The authorities detained 300 head of cattle and 270 sheep in the Tubas region.

Owners Asmar Abu Mutwah and Yusef Husni were ordered to pay heavy fines, despite the fact that their animals were grazing on private agricultural land.

NO FUNDS FOR MARKET

HALHOUL — Halhoul's municipal council has called a halt to plans to set up a central fruit and vegetable market, acting Mayor Hijazi Madiyyeh said, because of lack of funds. He said he intended to go to Amman to discuss with the Jordanian authorities the possibility of releasing municipal funds deposited in Amman. Work on the long-planned market was begun a few weeks ago.

PATROLS ASSAULT

JERUSALEM — Members of Israel's Nature Reserve Authority, backed by Green Patrols and kibbutzniks, assaulted two Arab girls grazing their camels near the kibbutz Talalim, near Dimona, the Naqab.

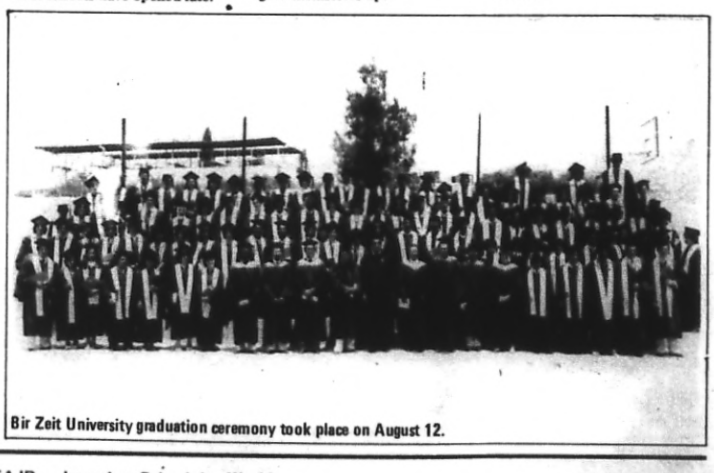
The Israelis broke the leg of one camel, reports said; the camel, which cost IS300,000, will have to be put down.

ACADEMIC BRIDGE

HEBRON — Jordanian matriculation authorities have announced that they will not allow *tawjihi* students who scored less than a 60 percent pass in the literary section or 70 percent in the science section, to cross the bridges.

FILM PRIZE

JERUSALEM — The Israeli film about racism in the Galilee, *Khamsin*, won second prize in the Locarno film festival, Switzerland. Directed by Daniel Wachsman, the film deals with land and personal conflicts between Palestinians and Israeli settlers.



Bir Zeit University graduation ceremony took place on August 12.

Palestinian Athletics in International Competitions

by Daoud Kuttab

International athletics have in the past played an important role in nationalist consciousness and have been used as an important diplomatic tool by many nations — witness the US-organised boycott of the Moscow Olympics and the China—West "ping-pong" diplomacy.

The Palestinian people have in the past realised the great importance of sports to its morale and as a means for achieving further international recognition. In fact, Palestinian athletic teams have registered and participated in sporting events years before world-wide recognition of Palestinian rights was attained. Nevertheless, the 1967 war and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza dampened earlier successes. Since then, most efforts to organise teams from Palestine to participate in international competitions have been obstructed. Athletes from the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been successfully prevented from joining teams outside.

Palestinian Federation - Gaza

"Palestinian" athletic activities were organised only in the Gaza Strip from the early '50s to 1967. Under the patronage and direction of the Egyptian military governor, nine Palestinian sporting federations were set up in the Gaza Strip. All nine federations have attempted to obtain international recognition from their respective international federations. In 1963, the Gaza Basketball Federation received international recognition in the FIBA (Federation International de Basketball Amateur), the highest international body for basketball, and has participated in international tournaments since that date. Dr George Rishmawi, from Gaza, president of the federation since its foundation, explained that the highest achievement of the Palestinian team was third place in the African championship in 1965 and the Arab championship in 1966 held in Tripoli. As a result of these achievements, the Gaza-based Palestinian team was eligible to host the African championship and indeed, says Rishmawi, all plans had been made to hold the games in Gaza on July 7, 1967. The June war intervened.

Vice Presidents in Arab Countries

The war and the occupation did not only thwart the African championships, but also affected all manner of organised participation by Palestinians. In addition to the natural cut-off from the Arab world and its sources of financial and moral support, the Israelis forbad Palestinian teams from international tournaments. The Israeli authorities, whose basketball team participated very successfully in international championships, were embarrassed by the fact that Palestinians had a team in the same federation, sports organisers charge.

As a way of combatting the practical problem of having their sports headquarters occupied, Palestinian youth centres were set up in every Arab country except Jordan. Officially, the presidents of Palestinian sporting federations in Gaza had a vice-president in every Arab country. The youth centres are unified under a council, which until recently had its headquarters in Beirut.

When an international tournament is taking place, the Palestinian youth council prepares an all-star team of Palestinian athletes from the Arab world. The list is sent to the president of the federation, who submits it to the international organisation.

At meetings, conferences or tournaments, official invitations are sent to the president of the particular sport. If he cannot attend, which is usually because of the authorities' ban, the council of Palestinian youth centres appoints a vice-president to carry out the duty.

The system, of course, is not only complicated and bureaucratic, but has become inefficient and impractical for local Palestinian sports. Official participation in international sports has ceased since the Israeli occupation. The only local participation in any kind of international gatherings has been largely symbolic. Dr Rishmawi has been, perhaps, the most active of all. He has personally appeared at many international sports meetings and has sat with other official delegates under the Palestinian flag. At times, the authorities have banned him from leaving the country, confiscated his passport, arrested him and have placed him under town arrest or travel restrictions. This lack of contact with foreign groups has naturally had a negative effect on the local scene.

In 1978, Rishmawi succeeded in taking a delegation of players and sports writers to the European basketball championship held in Spain. In 1979, he attended a preliminary meeting for the Moscow Olympics but upon return he was banned, along with a number of players he intended to take, from leaving the country. Two years later, after the restriction was lifted, Rishmawi was invited to the World Cup football finals, again in Spain.

But besides these symbolic appearances, the Palestinian sports scene has indeed suffered.

The president of the Palestinian track and field group, Abd al-Raouf Majdalawi, from Gaza, told *Al Fajr* that the Israeli authorities have barred him from any activity. He is also ordered not to leave the Gaza Strip by military order. Majdalawi says that there are Palestinian diaspora teams which participate independently in many sports meets.

Helsinki World Championships

The official participation of a Palestinian track and field team in the Helsinki World Championships, ending this week, aroused an angry Israeli response. Rishmawi explains the Israeli attitude towards the problem: "They would like more than anything in the world if they could eradicate our existence from the international sports scene."

Rishmawi relates an incident at the international conference in which he asked for help from their committee in the form of coaches and training equipment. Rishmawi explains that the Israeli delegate rose from his seat and offered to provide the needed help, telling the president Gaza is only half an hour from Tel Aviv. Rishmawi said that William Jones, the General Secretary of FIBA, informed the Israeli delegate that "When Mr Rishmawi needs your help he will ask you. He has asked our help." The association sent the equipment to Gaza.

Local attempts to organise a national team from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have run into a number of difficulties. Athletic teams and clubs in the occupied territories have succeeded in establishing two sports leagues — one for the West Bank (including Jerusalem) and one for the Gaza Strip. Attempts to merge them have failed, however. West Bank teams still follow Jordanian team and sports regulations while the Gaza teams follow similar Egyptian by-laws and regulations. One attempt to take a unified West Bank and Gaza team to participate in a boxing match with the Qatar national team was thwarted by the Israeli authorities.

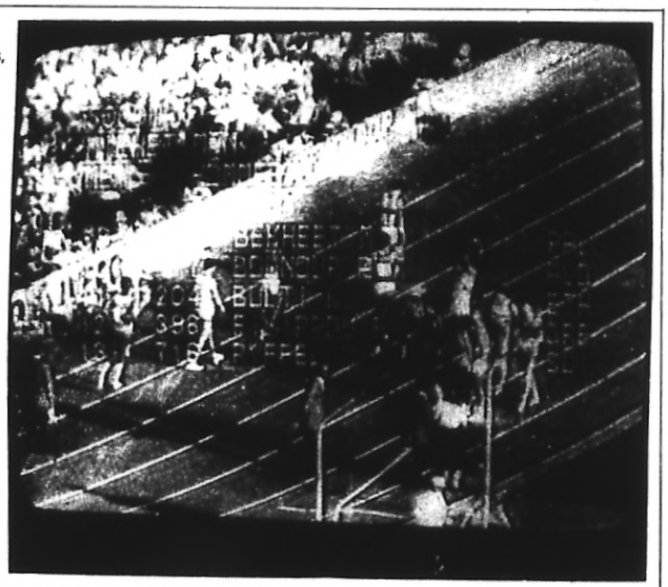
Ibrahim 'Uideh, the secretary for the Gaza league who tried to organise the match, spoke in one of the league's meetings about the need for higher sports bodies that can coordinate between the existing sports clubs league and the various Palestinian federations. 'Uideh told the members of his league that such a higher body would be responsible for providing financial, technical and moral support for all Palesinian athletics.

'Uideh explained to *Al Fajr* that with the exception of Rishmawi and George Salim, the Palestinian federations in Gaza have become obsolete and only symbolic figures. He says that his calls, however, have not yet been well received or enthusiastically supported.

Local Hopes

In the West Bank, the head of the sports club league, Majed Asaad, explained that the West Bank league would look seriously into any invitation to send delegates or players to any international sporting event. With regard to forming a unified sports body in the West Bank and Gaza, Asaad pointed to the obvious problems that will be created by the Israeli authorities if any attempt is made to form a local Palestinian team. However, he did not discount the possibilities of looking seriously into the question, if the West Bank league receives official requests from either the Gaza-based federation or the Palestinian Youth Council. In the meantime, the West Bank and Gaza sports leagues will continue playing internal matches between clubs which are culminated yearly by a league championship.

Until now, there has been no plan for a local championship. Perhaps such a move could be the nucleus of a local Palestinian all-star team, as the basis of a strong and impressive national team. This action would overcome the present weakness of the competing Palestinian teams. Dr Rishmawi explains that the best players in the Arab world at the present time are Palestinians who were lured into playing for whatever Arab country they are living in. A local team could overcome this problem.



A telephoto of the ongoing Helsinki track and field games, showing a Palestinian (PAL) participator. The head of the Palestinian team, Mohammed Abu Zeidan, was quoted as saying: 'We are willing to play Israel at track and field.'